

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8442

## IN SENATE

January 30, 2024

Introduced by Sen. WALCZYK -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to creating a series of distinctive license plates for law enforcement officers who were wounded in the line of duty; and to amend the state finance law, in relation to creating a wounded officers support fund

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new  
2 section 404-ff to read as follows:

3 § 404-ff. Distinctive plates for New York state law enforcement offi-  
4 cers who were injured in the line of duty. 1. Any officer who was  
5 wounded in the line of duty or the spouse of any such officer shall,  
6 upon request, be issued a license plate containing the seal of one of  
7 the following five police associations: (a) New York state sheriff's  
8 association; (b) New York state association of chiefs of police; (c)  
9 police benevolent association of the New York state troopers; (d) the  
10 New York state police benevolent association; and (e) the New York city  
11 police benevolent association. Any plate issued pursuant to this act  
12 shall bear the words "Wounded in the Line of Duty". For the purposes of  
13 this section:

14 i. "Wounded in the line of duty" shall be defined as a law enforcement  
15 officer who has sustained personal injury, in the intelligent perform-  
16 ance of duty, inflicted by an assailant with a dangerous and deadly  
17 weapon.

18 ii. Eligibility shall be verified by the department who employed the  
19 officer at the time of injury and shall be reviewed by the department.

20 iii. If a distinctive plate is issued to a law enforcement officer  
21 pursuant to this section, such a distinctive plate shall not be issued  
22 to the spouse of such officer.

23 iv. The application for such license plate shall be filed with the  
24 commissioner in such form and detail as prescribed by the commissioner.

25 2. The distinctive plate authorized under subdivision one of this  
26 section shall be issued upon proof, satisfactory to the commissioner,

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 that the applicant or the spouse of the applicant is a law enforcement  
2 officer who was wounded in the line of duty.

3 3. (a) A distinctive plate issued pursuant to this section shall be  
4 issued in the same manner as other number plates under this article upon  
5 the payment of the required registration fee prescribed by section four  
6 hundred one of this article; provided, however, that an additional annu-  
7 al service charge of twenty-five dollars shall be charged for such  
8 plates. Such annual service charge shall be deposited pursuant to the  
9 provisions of section four hundred four-oo of this article, to the cred-  
10 it of the department of motor vehicles distinctive plate development  
11 fund established by section ninety-five-g of the state finance law.

12 (b) Moneys from such deposit shall be used for the production, design,  
13 advertising, and marketing of distinctive license plates pursuant to  
14 section ninety-five-g of the state finance law; provided, however, that  
15 annual service charges collected in excess of six thousand dollars be  
16 deposited to the "wounded officers support fund" or "the fund" estab-  
17 lished by section ninety-seven-zzzz of the state finance law.

18 (c) Moneys from the fund will be directed for purposes deemed appro-  
19 priate by the five law enforcement associations as long as the funds are  
20 used for the purpose of assisting wounded or fallen law enforcement  
21 officers and their families.

22 § 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 97-zzzz  
23 to read as follows:

24 § 97-zzzz. Wounded officers support fund. 1. There is hereby estab-  
25 lished in the joint custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance  
26 and the comptroller, a special fund known as the "wounded officers  
27 support fund" or "the fund".

28 2. Such fund shall consist of all revenues received pursuant to the  
29 provisions of section four hundred four-ff of the vehicle and traffic  
30 law and other moneys appropriated, credited, or transferred thereto from  
31 any other fund or source pursuant to law.

32 3. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from  
33 receiving grants, gifts, or bequests for the purposes of the fund as  
34 defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to  
35 the law.

36 4. Moneys of the fund shall be expended for the sole purpose of  
37 supporting wounded law enforcement officers and their families, as well  
38 as the families of fallen law enforcement officers. This includes but is  
39 not limited to providing: medical treatments, mental health counseling,  
40 home accessibility improvements, service animals, transportation needs,  
41 and funeral services.

42 5. Moneys of the fund shall be used solely for the wounded officers  
43 support fund and may not be diverted into any general fund.

44 § 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
45 it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amend-  
46 ment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implemen-  
47 tation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and  
48 completed on or before such effective date.