

(H. B. 4086)

(No. 178)

(Approved August 1, 2004)

AN ACT

To add Section 2.31-A to Act No. 22 of January 7, 2000, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act,” in order to empower the Secretary of Transportation and Public Works to issue distinctive license plates to all motor vehicles owned by any veteran that has served in the armed forces of the United States of America, as certified by the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Puerto Rico has a great number of citizens who have served in the Army of the United States of America, service which qualifies them as veterans. Throughout the years, thousands of Puerto Rican men and women have enrolled in the armed forces and have excelled for their valor, disposition, and drive in assuming responsibilities they have been assigned.

These fellow countrymen deserve public recognition for having served honorably in the armed forces, both in times of peace and in times of war. Puerto Rican soldiers have faithfully fulfilled their commitment to defend national security and world peace.

Through this Act, the Secretary of Transportation and Public Works is empowered to issue distinctive license plates for motor vehicles owned by veterans so certified by the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs and who so request.

Thus, the Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico honors and recognizes the thousands of veterans who have put their lives on the line during the war conflicts in which they have participated.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.—Section 2.31-A is hereby added to Act No. 22 of January 7, 2000, as amended, to read as follows:

“Section 2.31-A.—Distinctive License Plates for Veterans.—

At the request of the interested party, the Secretary shall issue distinctive license plates to all veterans duly certified by the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs and who owns a motor vehicle for his/her private use, subject to the following guidelines:

- (a) The distinctive license plate shall be the official license plate of the motor vehicle and shall be placed at the rear end thereof.
- (b) In the registration of the vehicle, the necessary information shall be included so as to enable the identification of the distinctive license plate with the official registration of the corresponding motor vehicle.
- (c) The distinctive license plates mentioned above shall be paid for with a ten (10)-dollar internal revenue voucher, which amount shall be deposited in the Fund of the Office of Driver Services (DISCO, Spanish acronym), to defray the production costs thereof.
- (d) The Secretary shall provide for, through regulations, all matters concerning the design, size, colors, issue, use, renewal and cancellation of the distinctive license plates mentioned above, as well as all those details he/she may

consider necessary. Provided, that in terms of the design, the Secretary shall receive and evaluate the proposal of groups representing Puerto Rican veterans.

- (e) All applications for said distinctive license plates shall include the due certification from the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs or Form DD-214, issued by the United States Department of Defense.
- (f) The use of said license plate in the public thoroughfares of Puerto Rico is hereby authorized only through its term of effectiveness.
- (g) The Secretary may cancel or revoke the authorization for the use of said distinctive license plate in the event there is noncompliance with the provisions of this Section, as further provided through regulations.
- (h) Once the veteran obtains the distinctive license plate, it belongs to him/her. At the time of selling his/her car, the veteran shall retain the license plate.
- (i) Any person who displays a distinctive license plate for veterans without being authorized for doing so, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be sanctioned with a fine of not less than two hundred (200) nor greater than five hundred (500) dollars.”

Section 2.—This Act shall take effect sixty (60) days after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 178 (H.B. 4086) (Reconsidered) of the 7th Session of the 14th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to add Section 2.31-A to Act No. 22 of January 7, 2000, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act,” in order to empower the Secretary of Transportation and Public Works to issue distinctive license plates to all motor vehicles owned by any veteran that has served in the armed forces of the United States of America, as certified by the U. S. Department of Veteran Affairs,

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 16th of May of 2005.

Luis E. Fusté-Lacourt
Director