

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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124th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2009

Legislative Document

No. 1274

H.P. 893

House of Representatives, March 31, 2009

An Act To Establish a Gold Star Family Member License Plate

Reference to the Committee on Transportation suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative McLEOD of Lee.
Cosponsored by Senator RAYE of Washington and
Representatives: BEAULIEU of Auburn, CAMPBELL of Newfield, CURTIS of Madison,
GIFFORD of Lincoln, JOY of Crystal, SARTY of Denmark, TILTON of Harrington, Senator:
COURTNEY of York.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 29-A MRSA §524, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

3 **5. Gold star family member medal recipients; special license plates.**
4 Notwithstanding the requirements in section 468-A, the Secretary of State, on application
5 and upon evidence of payment of the excise tax required by Title 36, section 1482, shall
6 issue a registration certificate and a set of Gold Star Family Member registration plates,
7 to be used in lieu of regular registration plates, to a person who is a gold star medal
8 recipient under Title 37-B, section 3, subsection 1, paragraph D, subparagraph (17).

9 An application for Gold Star Family Member plates must be accompanied by proof that
10 the applicant has been awarded the gold star medal. The Secretary of State shall verify
11 the documentation presented by the applicant. Misrepresentation of documents is in
12 violation of section 2103, subsection 5.

13 The Secretary of State may issue Gold Star Family Member plates for display only on an
14 automobile or pickup truck. A recipient may be issued Gold Star Family Member plates
15 for no more than 2 vehicles.

16 The surviving spouse of a person issued Gold Star Family Member plates in accordance
17 with this subsection may retain and display the Gold Star Family Member plates as long
18 as the surviving spouse remains unmarried. Upon remarriage, the surviving spouse may
19 not use the Gold Star Family Member plates on a motor vehicle, but may retain them as a
20 keepsake. Upon the death of the surviving spouse, the family may retain the Gold Star
21 Family Member plates, but may not use them on a motor vehicle.

22 The Secretary of State shall determine the design of the Gold Star Family Member plate.
23 Upon request and as provided by section 453, the Secretary of State shall issue Gold Star
24 Family Member plates that are also vanity plates. Gold Star Family Member vanity plates
25 are issued in accordance with this section and section 453. The annual service fee of \$15
26 for vanity plates is credited to the Highway Fund.

27 A gold star medal recipient or the surviving spouse of a gold star medal recipient who
28 does not operate a motor vehicle or register a motor vehicle and who otherwise qualifies
29 for the issuance of special Gold Star Family Member registration plates may apply to the
30 Secretary of State for a special single plate recognizing that award. The Secretary of
31 State shall design and identify these single plates for recognition purposes only. Single
32 Gold Star Family Member plates may not be attached to a motor vehicle. Only one plate
33 may be issued to each recipient and a one-time fee of \$5 charged.

34 The Secretary of State shall begin issuing Gold Star Family Member plates in accordance
35 with this subsection no later than November 1, 2010.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This bill establishes the Gold Star Family Member license plate for gold star medal
38 recipients. Gold star medals are awarded by the Adjutant General to express formally
39 condolence and appreciation to the closest surviving family members of members of the

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United States Armed Forces who, since September 11, 2001, are killed in action or die as a consequence of injuries that result in the award of a Purple Heart medal.