



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2004

PUBLIC LAW NO. 14-16
H. B. No. 14-103, HS1

AN ACT

To amend Chapter 1 of Division 2 of Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code to add a new Section 2116; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE FOURTEENTH NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE:

Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the “Veteran’s License Plate Act of 2004.”

Section 2. Findings and Purpose. The Legislature finds that in recognition of the Commonwealth’s veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces during World War II and the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and in other conflicts, that a significant gesture in expressing the gratitude of the people to our veterans is to commemorate their courageous deeds by making available license plates designed specifically for these distinguished members of our community. Other states and territories have provided such a visible tribute to its veterans and it is time that the Commonwealth also remembers the contributions and the sacrifices made by the sons and daughters of the Commonwealth that have led to the freedom we enjoy today.

Section 3. Amendment. Chapter 1 of Division 2 of Title 9 of the Commonwealth Code is hereby amended to add a new Section 2116:

“§ 2116. Veteran License Plates.

(a) **Definition.** For purposes of this Act, the term “veteran” means a person who served in active duty in the United States military service in the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Coast Guard, Army, Air National Guard or active reserve component of the Army, Air Force or Navy, and who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable.

(b) **Application.** In lieu of the license plates contracted on behalf of the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, in order to qualify for a veterans license plate the applicant must submit the following along with the application for vehicle registration:

1. Copy of the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty from the Department of Defense (DD214); or
2. Individuals otherwise qualified under Subsection (a)1 of this Section shall obtain certification from the Military and Veterans Affairs Office, provided that he/she produces documents, if DD 214 is not available, which signifies proof that he/she served in the U.S. military services.

(c) **Color and Design.** A veteran license plate shall be the same standard size and shape as regular passenger vehicle license plates with the additional features as follows:

1. Below the line 'HAFA ADAI' will be the word 'VETERAN' (in black lettering) bordered on the left by the United States Flag and on the right by the CNMI Flag;
2. On the next line, centered on the license plate, will be the license plate number (in blue lettering) in alpha numeric format designating branch of service and numerical sequence. For example, A001 (Army), NG045 (National Guard), or R610 (Reserves). For a qualified person with a disability, the veteran license plate shall display the International Symbol of Accessibility in the same size as the letters and numbers on the license plate.
3. Any additional regulations or design specifications needed to implement the provisions of this section shall be prescribed by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or his designee.

(d) **Fee.** The fee for the issuance of veteran license plate shall not exceed the fee charged for a similar license plate for the same class of vehicle.

(e) **Issuance.** A veteran license plate shall be issued only to the registered owner or lessee of the vehicle on which they are to be displayed.

1. Registration for a veteran license plate shall not be limited to one vehicle per veteran.

2. Veteran license plates issued under this section shall not be transferable to any other person, provided that the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety or his designee shall allow the survivor of the qualified person, upon request, to retain the front license plate as a memorial.

3. Veteran license plates shall be assigned to noncommercial passenger motor vehicles and noncommercial motorcycles.

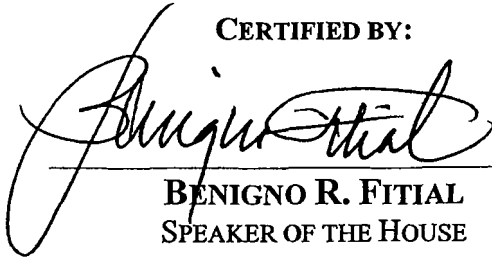
(f) The Department of Public Safety shall commence planning for the design and issuance of the veteran license plates and shall implement the distribution of veteran license plates within 90 days after the effective date of this Act.

Section 4. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 5. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation or order adopted under the statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of this Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence at the date this Act, becomes effective.

Section 6. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or upon its becoming law without such approval.

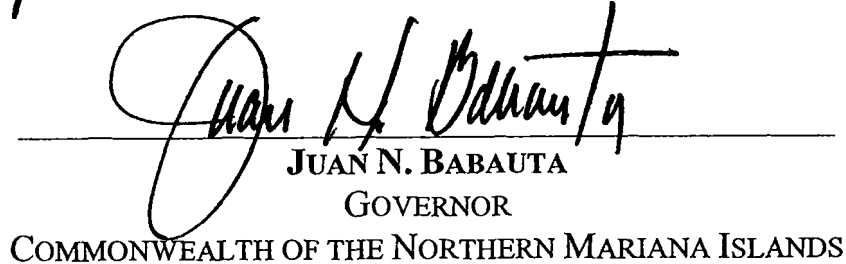
CERTIFIED BY:


BENIGNO R. FITIAL
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

ATTESTED TO BY:


EVELYN C. FLEMING
HOUSE CLERK

Approved on this 18th day of June, 2004


JUAN N. BABAUTA
GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS