By Senator Whatley
RFD: Veterans and Military Affairs
First Read: 04-APR-13

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SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, a resident of this state who is a recipient of the Medal of Honor or the widow of a recipient of the Medal of Honor, a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, or a former prisoner of war may receive a free distinctive license plate.

This bill would provide that a member of the Legion of Valor would receive a free distinctive license plate.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To amend Sections 32-6-250 and 32-6-251 of the Code of Alabama 1975, relating to distinctive license plates; to provide that a member of the Legion of Valor would receive a free distinctive license plate. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 32-6-250 and 32-6-251 of the Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows: "§32-6-250.
"(a) A distinctive permanent license plate shall be issued to any resident of the state who is a recipient of the Medal of Honor or the widow of a recipient of the Medal of Honor, to any resident who is a recipient of the Purple Heart Medal, to any resident who is a member of the Legion of Valor with positive proof of the award of the Medal of Honor, the Army Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross, or to any resident who shows by satisfactory proof that he or she was a duly recognized former prisoner of war, for use on a private motor vehicle registered in the name of the resident. There shall be no fee or tax for the license plate, except Purple Heart Medal recipients shall pay ad valorem taxes on vehicles for which the distinctive plates are issued, and no recipient shall receive a plate for more than one vehicle except as provided in subsection (c).
"(b) A former prisoner of war for purposes of this section is a person who, as a member of the United States Armed Forces, or while serving with a formal United States ally force, or as a United States civilian, was held as a prisoner of war during any armed conflict by forces hostile to the United States.
"(c) A person eligible to be issued a distinctive license plate under this section may be issued additional distinctive license plates, under any of the above license
plate categories, if the person otherwise qualifies to receive the distinctive license plate, upon payment of all license tax and registration fees, including ad valorem taxes, for the vehicles. Annual renewal decals shall be provided after payment, if required, of license fees and taxes for the years during which a new tag or plate is not issued as provided in Section 32-6-63.
"§32-6-251.
"The special plates shall be of the same size as regular motor vehicle license plates, distinguished by the letters $\mathrm{MOH}_{\mathcal{L}}$ PHM, or LOV, to be of a different color scheme and design to any other vehicle tag in this state, or Pow to be of the same color scheme as other distinguished military tags in this state, whichever distinctive design applies, the nature of which shall be prescribed by a committee to be appointed by the chief legislative sponsors of this division." Section 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the third month following its passage and approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

