

## HB554 INTRODUCED



1 HB554  
2 DG7YEHT-1  
3 By Representative Givens  
4 RFD: Military and Veterans Affairs  
5 First Read: 09-Apr-25



SYNOPSIS:

This bill would establish a distinctive license plate for military combat action and would establish eligibility for individuals who participated in active duty combat action while serving in the United States Armed Forces, and received a combat medal or combat badge.

This bill would also provide a criminal penalty for anyone who falsely obtains a distinctive military combat action special license plate.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to motor vehicle registrations and license plates; to add Section 32-6-354 to the Code of Alabama 1975, to establish a combat action special license plate; and to provide a criminal penalty for falsely obtaining a military combat action special license plate.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Section 32-6-354 is added to the Code of Alabama 1975, to read as follows:

§32-6-354



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(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, a distinctive license plate category shall be established for motor vehicle owners who served in a component of the United States Armed Forces and received the Combat Action Ribbon, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Action Badge, Combat Medical Badge, Combat Action Medal, or Air Force Combat Action Medal. The distinctive license plates shall be issued, printed, and processed in the same manner as other distinctive tags as provided in this chapter. The eligible U.S. service member shall make application to the judge of probate or other county license plate issuing official in his or her county of residence and shall present to the county license plate issuing official one of the following documents, medals, or awards as proof of eligibility:

(1) A DD Form 214 stating that the service member served in a combat theater and received awards or ribbons that indicate combat experience.

(2) A copy of the certificate which accompanied the service medal or ribbon signifying the participation of the service member in the combat action.

(3) The combat action ribbon, combat infantry badge, combat action badge, combat medical badge, combat action medal, or air force combat action medal.

(b) When the service member presents satisfactory proof to the county license plate issuing official of his or her combat experience, the service member shall be issued the requested number of distinctive license plates upon the payment of the regular license fee for the plates, as provided



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by law, and payment of the additional fee of three dollars (\$3) for each plate issued. The service member shall pay the additional fee for each license plate issued thereafter. In those years in which the decal is issued, the service member shall pay the regular license fee for tags as provided by law. The distinctive license plates shall be used only upon and for personally owned, private passenger vehicles, to include station wagons and pickup trucks, registered in the name of the service member making application, and when issued to the applicant shall be used upon the vehicle for which issued in lieu of the standard license plates normally issued for the vehicle. The distinctive license plate authorized by this section shall be as follows:

(1) Combat Action Ribbon (CAR) designated by either:

a. USMC (EGA) emblem, "Emblem of the United States Marine Corps";

b. United States Navy, "Emblem of the United States Navy"; or

c. Coast Guard, "Seal of the United States Coast Guard."

(2) Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) designated with the U.S. Army service mark, "Army Military service mark."

(3) Combat Action Badge (CAB) designated with the U.S. Army service mark, "Army Military service mark," or vis-a-vis the alternate, "Combat Medical Badge" (CMB).

(4) Air Force Combat Action Medal (CAM), United States Space Force Combat Action Medal (CAM) designated by either:

a. U.S. Air Force (USAF), "Emblem of the United States



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Air Force"; or

b. U.S. Space Force Delta logo, "U.S. Space Force."

(c) The designation will be placed to the left of the plate identification number space and underneath the proper branch insignia logo for each respective award or medal.

(d) The plate shall indicate in bold print at the center bottom of the plate space under the numbering in bright white, "COMBAT VETERAN."

(e) This section does not disqualify disabled veterans who are eligible under the current guidelines to have the letters "DV" placed under the combat insignia in smaller print.

(f) The distinctive plate may not be personalized.

(g) The distinctive license plate shall not be transferred between motor vehicle owners and shall be subject to the same provisions of law related to the transferring of distinctive motor vehicle license plates provided in Section 32-6-154 or as otherwise provided by law or rule of the Department of Revenue.

(h) Any individual who is proven to have falsely obtained or falsely certified an individual to obtain a combat action distinctive license plate issued under this section shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor.

(i) The Department of Revenue may adopt rules to administer this section.

Section 2. This act shall become effective on October 1, 2025.