A bill for an act

relating to veterans; authorizing issuance of the combat wounded vehicle license plate to a recipient of the purple heart medal who is continuing to serve in the military; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 168.123, subdivision 2.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 168.123, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Design.** The commissioner of veterans affairs shall design the emblem for the veterans' special plates, subject to the approval of the commissioner, that satisfy the following requirements:

(a) For a Vietnam veteran who served after July 1, 1961, and before July 1, 1978, in the active military service in a branch of the armed forces of the United States or a nation or society allied with the United States the special plates must bear the inscription "VIETNAM VET" and the letters "V" and "V" with the first letter directly above the second letter and both letters just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number.

(b) For a veteran stationed on the island of Oahu, Hawaii, or offshore, during the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the special plates must bear the inscription "PEARL HARBOR SURVIVOR" and the letters "P" and "H" with the first letter directly above the second letter and both letters just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number.

(c) For a veteran who served during World War I or World War II, the plates must bear the inscription "WORLD WAR VET" and:

(1) for a World War I veteran, the characters "W" and "I" with the first character directly above the second character and both characters just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number; or

(2) for a World War II veteran, the characters "W" and "II" with the first character directly above the second character and both characters just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number.

(d) For a veteran who served during the Korean Conflict, the special plates must bear the inscription "KOREAN VET" and the letters "K" and "V" with the first letter directly above the second letter and both letters just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number.

(e) For a combat wounded veteran who is a recipient of the purple heart medal, the plates must bear the inscription "COMBAT WOUNDED VET" and have a facsimile on an emblem of the official purple heart medal and the letters "C" over "W" with the first letter directly over the second letter just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number.

A member of the United States armed forces who is serving actively in the military and who is a recipient of the purple heart medal is also eligible for this license plate. The commissioner of public safety shall consult with the commissioner of veterans affairs in determining the required proof of eligibility for any applicant who has not yet been issued military discharge papers.

(f) For a Persian Gulf War veteran, the plates must bear the inscription "GULF WAR VET" and the letters "G" and "W" with the first letter directly above the second letter and both letters just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number. For the purposes of this section, "Persian Gulf War veteran" means a person who served on active duty after August 1, 1990, in a branch of the armed forces of the United States or a nation or society allied with the United States or the United Nations during Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, or other military operation in the Persian Gulf area combat zone as designated in United States Presidential Executive Order No. 12744, dated January 21, 1991.

(g) For a veteran who served in the Laos War after July 1, 1961, and before July 1, 1978, the special plates must bear the inscription "LAOS WAR VET" and the letters "L" and "V" with the first letter directly above the second letter and both letters just preceding the first numeral of the special plate number.

(h) For a veteran who is the recipient of:

(1) the Iraq Campaign Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "IRAQ WAR VET" directly below the special plate number;

(2) the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "AFGHAN WAR VET" directly below the special plate number; or

(3) the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "GWOT VETERAN" directly below the special plate number.

(i) For a veteran who is the recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the special plates must be inscribed with a facsimile of that medal and must bear the inscription "GWOT VETERAN" directly below the special plate number. In addition, any member of the National Guard or other military reserves who has been ordered to federally funded state active service under United States Code, title 32, as defined in section 190.05, subdivision 5b, and who is the recipient of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, is eligible for the license plate described in this paragraph, irrespective of whether that person qualifies as a veteran under section 197.447.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective August 1, 2010.