

Senate Bill 173

- The Division is very supportive of veterans. We are thankful for their service to the country and we want to see them honored.
- Our contact with the VA tells us that there are:
18,242 Korean War Vets
77,449 Gulf War Vets (the VA does not break down numbers by battle name)
Total 95,691 potentially eligible for one of these plates

What we do not know is how many of these Korean War Vets are still living.

- Cost to produce a military plate is \$5.10 for an auto and \$3.86 for motorcycle plate. Currently there are 73,539 Viet Nam Vets in Kansas. Of those 73,539, approximately 96% (71,000) have an auto plate and 8% (6591) have a motorcycle plate (remember that some have both so the total plates can exceed total eligible). If we assume that same response from this group we would be issuing 92,000 auto and 7600 MC plates. Total cost to manufacture would be approximately \$477,000. This does not include plate design time.
- Bill contains language that is usually applied to specialty plates where there is a sponsoring organization. When there is a sponsoring organization, the organization is required to bear the cost of the initial plate production.
- Generally military plates are not sponsored plates and the Division produces these. If there is no sponsoring organization, all funding costs must be borne by the Division.
- The fiscal note is under-estimated and does not include system design, development, programming and testing costs. It also does not include cost to design and develop the necessary forms to be used. The lack of clarity regarding sponsoring organization also made estimating difficult. A more accurate cost would be \$523,938.
- There are complexities in determining eligibility for the plate. Ordinarily we use a DD-214 for proof of eligibility for veteran's plates and the DD-214 must say that the veteran was honorably discharged. Since Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom are not designated via the VA, it will be difficult to determine eligibility for the plate. We can work with the VA to determine criteria.
- SB 173 requires the veteran to provide proof of eligibility at every renewal and we respectfully request that requirement be deleted. Once a veteran has proven eligibility, it doesn't change so there is no need to continue to provide proof.
- This could be implemented along with digital plate production which could potentially reduce costs as we would not need to overproduce plates in order to stock counties. We would only produce the plate after it was actually ordered, so waste would be eliminated.