

HB 15-1026, Reserved Parking Disabled Military License Plates - Updated

What this bill does:

- This bill seeks to combine two existing Colorado license plates: disabled license plate with the wheel-chair emblem and military medal plates (Purple Heart, Silver Star, Silver Star with Valor, etc.)

Why this bill is needed:

- The purpose is to maintain handicapped disabled Veterans access and add recognition for their distinguished service
- Currently, a decorated, handicapped Veteran must decide on mobility access versus sharing their military medal. These Veterans most likely have handicap license plates

Criteria and Impact:

- This bill does not add any new medals to existing criteria
- This bill does not change the current handicap/disable license plate qualification criteria
- Consequently, there will be minimal new handicap license plates issued as a result of this bill. The bulk result will be standard or DV handicap license plates exchanged for handicap license plates with the noteworthy military medal notation

Additional info:

- As of November 30, 2014, there are 129,840 military special license plates issued state-wide in Colorado:
 - 3,439 handicap disabled veterans
 - 18,037 military medal plates
- According to data from El Paso County Clerk and Recorder, there are 10,771 free plates issued to disabled Veterans in El Paso County

Applicability:

- This bill includes distinguished, disabled Veterans in all branches of the military, reservists, and Colorado National Guard, who are already defined in Colorado statutes
- This bill does not change the current handicap/disable license plate qualification criteria