CHAPTER 2016-182

Senate Bill No. 88

An act relating to Gold Star license plates; amending s. 320.0894, F.S.; including certain individuals as qualified for issuance of a Gold Star license plate; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1.   Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 320.0894, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

320.0894   Motor vehicle license plates to Gold Star family members.— The department shall develop a special license plate honoring the family members of servicemembers who have been killed while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. The license plate shall be officially designated as the Gold Star license plate and shall be developed and issued as provided in this section.

(4)(a)1.a.   The Gold Star license plate shall be issued only to family members of a servicemember who resided in Florida at the time of the death of the servicemember.

b.   Any family member, as defined in subparagraph 2., of a servicemember killed while serving may be issued a Gold Star license plate upon payment of the license tax and appropriate fees as provided in paragraph (3)(a) without regard to the state of residence of the servicemember.

2.   To qualify for issuance of a Gold Star license plate, the applicant must be directly related to a fallen servicemember as spouse, legal mother or father, or stepparent, parent through adoption, foster parent, grandparent, child, stepchild, adopted child, brother, sister, half brother, or half sister who is currently married to the mother or father of the fallen servicemember.

3.   A servicemember is deemed to have been killed while in service as listed by the United States Department of Defense and may be verified from documentation directly from the Department of Defense or from its subordinate agencies, such as the Coast Guard, Reserve, or National Guard.

Section 2.   This act shall take effect July 1, 2016.

Approved by the Governor April 6, 2016.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 6, 2016.