

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 1991

CHAPTER 1042
SENATE BILL 1229

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE REGISTRATION PLATES DEPICTING VARIOUS HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA, TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE OUT-OF-STATE COLLEGIATE INSIGNIA PLATES AND MILITARY RETIREE PLATES, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME FROM THESE PLATES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-79.4 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-79.4. Special registration plates.

(a) ~~Types.—~~General. — Upon application and payment of the required registration fees, a person may obtain from the Division a special registration plate for a motor vehicle registered in that person's name if the person qualifies for the registration plate. A special registration plate, with the exception of a personalized registration plate, may not be issued for a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan or for a commercial truck. A holder of a special registration plate who becomes ineligible for the plate, for whatever reason, must return the special plate within 30 days.

(b) Types. — The Division shall issue the following types of special registration plates:

- (1) Administrative Officer of the Courts. — Issuable to the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The plate shall bear the phrase 'J-20'.
- (2) Amateur Radio Operator. — Issuable to an amateur radio operator who holds an unexpired and unrevoked amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and who asserts to the Division that a portable transceiver is carried in the vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Amateur Radio.' The plate shall bear the operator's official amateur radio call letters, or call letters with numerical or letter suffixes so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call letters on each.
- (3) Civil Air Patrol Member. — Issuable to an active member of the North Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Civil Air Patrol'. A plate issued to an officer member shall begin with the number '201' and the number shall reflect the seniority of the member; a plate issued to an enlisted member, a senior member, or a cadet member shall begin with the number '501'.

- (4) Class D Citizen's Radio Station Operator. – Issuable to a Class D citizen's radio station operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. The plate shall bear the operator's official Class D citizen's radio station call letters.
- (5) Clerk of Superior Court. – Issuable to a clerk of superior court. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Clerk Superior Court' and the letter 'C' followed by a number that indicates the county the clerk serves.
- (6) Coast Guard Auxiliary Member. – Issuable to an active member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Coast Guard Auxiliary'.
- (6a) Collegiate Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an insignia representing a public or private college or university.
- (7) Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- (8) Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who suffered a 100% service-connected disability.
- (9) District Attorney. – Issuable to a North Carolina or United States District Attorney. The plate issuable to a North Carolina district attorney shall bear the letters 'DA' followed by a number that represents the prosecutorial district the district attorney serves. The plate for a United States attorney shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Attorney' followed by a number that represents the district the attorney serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- (10) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue squad, or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall bear the words 'Firefighter', 'Rescue Squad', or 'Firefighter-Rescue Squad'.
- (11) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at least 35 years old measured from the date of manufacture. The plate for a vehicle that is 35 to 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Antique'. The plate for a vehicle that is at least 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Horseless Carriage'.
- (11a) Historical Attraction Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit historical attraction located in North Carolina.
- (12) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary Consular Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State Department, the plate shall bear the words 'Honorary Consular Corps' and a distinguishing number based on the order of issuance.

- (13) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.
- (14) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General Assembly. The plate shall bear the words 'Senate' or 'State House' followed by the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
- (15) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Marshal' followed by a number that represents the district the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- (16) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the name and insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates shall be numbered sequentially for members of a component with the numbers 1 through 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to rank.
- (16a) Military Retiree. – Issuable to an individual who has retired from the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Armed Forces Retired' and the name of the branch of service from which the individual retired.
- (17) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired member of the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall bear the phrase 'National Guard'. A plate issued to an active member shall bear a number that reflects the seniority of the member; a plate issued to a commissioned officer shall begin with the number '1'; a plate issued to a noncommissioned officer with a rank of E7, E8, or E9 shall begin with the number '1601'; a plate issued to an enlisted member with a rank of E6 or below shall begin with the number '3001'. The plate issued to a retired or separated member shall indicate the member's retired status.
- (18) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who suffered a service connected disability of less than 100%.
- (19) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who was present at and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase 'Pearl Harbor Survivor' and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association.
- (20) Personalized. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle. The plate will bear the letters or letters and numbers requested by the owner. The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter combination that is offensive to good taste and decency. The Division may not issue a plate that duplicates another plate.
- (21) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to a member or veteran member of the armed forces of the United States who has been captured and held

prisoner by forces hostile to the United States while serving in the armed forces.

- (22) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart award. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Purple Heart Veteran, Combat Wounded' and the letters 'PH'.
- (23) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed members of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.
- (24) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a modernized private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949 or designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Street Rod'.
- (25) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall bear the letters 'DOT' followed by a number from 1 to 85, as designated by the Governor.
- (26) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative for North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. House' and shall be issued on the basis of Congressional district numbers.
- (27) U.S. Senator. – Issuable to a United States Senator for North Carolina. The plates shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Senate' and shall be issued on the basis of seniority represented by the numbers 1 and 2.

~~(b) Fees. Upon request, the Division shall provide and issue free of charge one registration plate to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a 100% disabled veteran, and an ex prisoner of war. The annual fee for a special plate issuable to an active member of the national guard is the amount of the regular motor vehicle registration fee. The annual fee for a personalized plate issued under this section is the amount of the regular motor vehicle registration fee plus an additional twenty dollars (\$20.00). The annual fee for any other special plate listed in this section is the regular motor vehicle registration fee plus an additional ten dollars (\$10.00).~~

~~The Division shall credit one half of the revenue derived from the additional fee collected for a personalized plate to the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund established under G.S. 113-77.7. The Division shall credit the remaining revenue derived from the additional fee collected for a personalized plate and all of the additional fee collected for any other special plate to the Special Registration Plate Fund.~~

~~(c) Disqualification. A holder of a special license plate who becomes ineligible for the plate, for whatever reason, shall return the special plate within 30 days."~~

~~Sec. 2. G.S. 20-79.7 reads as rewritten:~~

~~"§ 20-79.7. **Special Registration Plate Fund. Fees for Special Registration Plates and distribution of the fees.**~~

~~(a) Fees. – Upon request, the Division shall provide and issue free of charge one registration plate to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a 100% disabled veteran, and an ex-prisoner of war. All other special registration plates are subject to~~

the regular motor vehicle registration fee in G.S. 20-87 or G.S. 20-88 plus an additional fee in the following amount:

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>Additional Fee Amount</u>
<u>Historical Attraction</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
<u>Collegiate Insignia</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Personalized</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
<u>All other Special Plates</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
<u>Active Member of the National Guard</u>	<u>None</u>

~~Fund.~~ ~~The Special Registration Plate Fund is established. The Fund consists of the revenue derived from one half of the additional fee collected for a personalized registration plate and all of the additional fee collected for any other special registration plate issued under G.S. 20-79.4. The Commissioner shall deduct the costs of the registration plates, including the costs of issuing, handling, and advertising the availability of the special plates from the Fund.~~

(b) ~~Initial Distribution of Proceeds.~~ Distribution of Fees. – The Special Registration Plate Account and the Collegiate and Historical Attraction Plate Account are established within the Highway Fund. The Division must credit the additional fee imposed for the special registration plates listed in subsection (a) among the Special Registration Plate Account (SRPA), the Collegiate and Historical Attraction Plate Account (CHAPA), and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund (RNHTF), which is established under G.S. 113-77.7, as follows:

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>SRPA</u>	<u>CHAPA</u>	<u>RNHTF</u>
<u>Historical Attraction</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>In-State Collegiate Insignia</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Out-of-state Collegiate Insignia</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$15</u>
<u>Personalized</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$10</u>
<u>All other Special Plates</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

After deducting the costs of the special registration plates from the ~~Fund~~, Special Registration Plate Account, the Secretary of Transportation may allocate and reserve up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to the Department of Transportation each fiscal year for the purpose of traffic control at major events as provided for by G.S. 136-44.2. Any funds allocated for traffic control that are neither used nor obligated at the end of the fiscal year shall remain in the ~~Fund~~ Special Registration Plate Account and be used in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

(c) ~~Use of Remaining Proceeds.~~ The remaining revenue in the Fund shall be transferred quarterly as follows: Use of Funds in Special Registration Plate Account. – The Division shall deduct the costs of special registration plates, including the costs of issuing, handling, and advertising the availability of the special plates, from the Special Registration Plate Account. The Division shall transfer the remaining revenue in the Account quarterly as follows:

- (1) Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of Economic and Community Development to aid in financing out-of-state print and other media advertising under the program for the promotion of travel and industrial development in this State.

- (2) Fifty percent (50%) to the Department of Transportation to be used solely for the purpose of beautification of highways other than those designated as interstate. These funds shall be administered by the Department of Transportation for beautification purposes not inconsistent with good landscaping and engineering principles.
- (3) Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of Human Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled persons in this State. These funds shall be used to collect and update site information on travel attractions designated by the Department of Economic and Community Development in its publications, to provide technical assistance to travel attractions concerning accommodation of disabled tourists, and to develop, print, and promote the publication ACCESS NORTH CAROLINA as provided in G.S.168-2. Any funds allocated for these purposes that are neither spent nor obligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the Department of Administration for removal of man-made barriers to disabled travelers at State-funded travel attractions. Guidelines for the removal of man-made barriers shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Human Resources."

Sec. 3. G.S. 20-81.12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia ~~plates~~, plates, high school insignia plates, and historical attraction plates.

(a) Collegiate Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a collegiate license plate may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate must be approved by both the Division and the alumni or alumnae association of the appropriate college or university. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Historical Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of in-State collegiate insignia plates to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for in-State, public colleges and universities and to the respective board of trustees for in-State, private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement. ~~The Division shall develop collegiate license plates as provided in this section for public or private colleges or universities located in this State. The Division shall issue a collegiate license plate to the owner of any motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan or a commercial truck, upon application and payment of the appropriate fees.~~

(b) Historical Attraction Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for an historical attraction plate representing a publicly owned or nonprofit historical attraction located in North Carolina and listed below before the plate may be developed. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Historical Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of historical attraction plates to the organizations named below in proportion to the number of historical attraction plates sold representing that organization:

- (1) Historical Attraction Within Historic District. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the appropriate Historic Preservation Commission, or entity designated as the Historic Preservation Commission, and used to maintain property in the historic district in which the attraction is located. As used in this subdivision, the term 'historic district' means a district created under G.S. 160A-400.4.
- (2) Nonprofit Historical Attraction. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the nonprofit corporation that is responsible for maintaining the attraction for which the plate is issued and used to develop and operate the attraction.
- (3) State Historic Site. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the Department of Cultural Resources and used to develop and operate the site for which the plate is issued. As used in this subdivision, the term 'State historic site' has the same meaning as in G.S. 121-2(11).

~~An owner who desires a collegiate insignia plate shall submit an application for the plate on a form provided by the Division and pay the sum of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) annually, which shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration fee.~~

~~(c) General. – An application for a collegiate insignia special license plate named in this section may be made at any time during the year. If the application is made for a collegiate insignia license plate to replace an existing current valid plate, the collegiate special plate shall must be issued with the appropriate decals attached. The fee prescribed in subsection (b) of this section shall be paid. No refund shall be made to the applicant for any unused portion remaining on the original plate. The request for a special license plate named in this section may be combined with a request that the plate be a personalized license plate. When application is made for a collegiate insignia license at the beginning of the applicant's registration period, the normal registration fee must be paid in addition to the fee prescribed in subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~(d) Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fee imposed by subsection (b) of this section shall be credited to the Personalized Registration Fund established under G.S. 20-81.3 [20-79.7]. The remaining revenue derived from the additional fee imposed by subsection (b) of this section shall be credited to the Collegiate Plate Fund, a separate fund established in the State Treasurer's office. The revenue in the Collegiate Plate Fund shall be transferred quarterly to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for public colleges and universities and to the respective board of trustees for private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement.~~

~~(e) The collegiate plate may be imprinted with letters and numerals as determined by the Division. Collegiate plates shall be of a color, design, and material approved by both the Division and the alumni or alumnae association of the appropriate college or university. The words "North Carolina" shall appear on the plate.~~

~~(f) The request for a collegiate insignia license plate may be combined with a request that the plate be a special personalized registration plate authorized by G.S. 20-81.3, upon payment of the fees required in that section.~~

~~(g) The Division must receive 300 or more applications for a collegiate license plate for a college or university before a collegiate license plate may be developed for that college or university."~~

Sec. 4. The Board of Directors of a nonprofit corporation responsible for maintaining a Nonprofit Historical Attraction may submit applications for a special plate to the Division of Motor Vehicles requesting that the initial plates bearing the numerals "1" through "100" be issued to the owners named in the applications. The applications must be submitted to the Division on or before January 1, 1993. The Boards of Directors named in this section may accept donations from the applicants for the purpose for which revenue received by the Board from the special plate authorized under G.S. 20-81.12, as amended by this act, may be used.

Sec. 5. Section 4 of this act is effective upon ratification. The remaining sections of this act become effective January 1, 1993.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 24th day of July, 1992.

Henson P. Barnes
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Daniel Blue, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives