

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 1229

Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 6/19/92

Finance Committee Substitute #2 Adopted 6/25/92

Short Title: Historical Attractions Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 8, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE REGISTRATION PLATES DEPICTING VARIOUS HISTORICAL ATTRACTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME FROM THE SALE OF THE 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) 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

- 1 that a portable transceiver is carried in the vehicle. The plate shall  
2 bear the phrase 'Amateur Radio.' The plate shall bear the operator's  
3 official amateur radio call letters, or call letters with numerical or letter  
4 suffixes so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call  
5 letters on each.
- 6 (3) Civil Air Patrol Member. – Issuable to an active member of the North  
7 Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The plate shall bear the phrase  
8 'Civil Air Patrol'. A plate issued to an officer member shall begin with  
9 the number '201' and the number shall reflect the seniority of the  
10 member; a plate issued to an enlisted member, a senior member, or a  
11 cadet member shall begin with the number '501'.
- 12 (4) Class D Citizen's Radio Station Operator. – Issuable to a Class D  
13 citizen's radio station operator licensed by the Federal  
14 Communications Commission. The plate shall bear the operator's  
15 official Class D citizen's radio station call letters.
- 16 (5) Clerk of Superior Court. – Issuable to a clerk of superior court. The  
17 plate shall bear the phrase 'Clerk Superior Court' and the letter 'C'  
18 followed by a number that indicates the county the clerk serves.
- 19 (6) Coast Guard Auxiliary Member. – Issuable to an active member of the  
20 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The plate shall bear the phrase  
21 'Coast Guard Auxiliary'.
- 22 (6a) Collegiate Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
23 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a  
24 phrase or an insignia representing a public or private college or  
25 university.
- 26 (7) Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of  
27 the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 28 (8) Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the  
29 United States who suffered a 100% service-connected disability.
- 30 (9) District Attorney. – Issuable to a North Carolina or United States  
31 District Attorney. The plate issuable to a North Carolina district  
32 attorney shall bear the letters 'DA' followed by a number that  
33 represents the prosecutorial district the district attorney serves. The  
34 plate for a United States attorney shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Attorney'  
35 followed by a number that represents the district the attorney serves,  
36 with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3  
37 being the Western District.
- 38 (10) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active  
39 regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue  
40 squad, or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall bear  
41 the words 'Firefighter', 'Rescue Squad', or 'Firefighter-Rescue Squad'.
- 42 (11) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at least  
43 35 years old measured from the date of manufacture. The plate for a  
44 vehicle that is 35 to 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Antique'. The

- 1 plate for a vehicle that is at least 50 years old shall bear the phrase  
2 'Horseless Carriage'.
- 3 (11a) Historical Attractions Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
4 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may  
5 bear a phrase or an insignia representing a publicly owned or not-  
6 for-profit historical attraction located in North Carolina.
- 7 (12) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary Consulor  
8 Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State Department, the  
9 plate shall bear the words 'Honorary Consulor Corps' and a  
10 distinguishing number based on the order of issuance.
- 11 (13) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in  
12 accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.
- 13 (14) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General  
14 Assembly. The plate shall bear the words 'Senate' or 'State House'  
15 followed by the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
- 16 (15) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall  
17 bear the phrase 'U.S. Marshal' followed by a number that  
18 represents the district the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern  
19 District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western  
20 District.
- 21 (16) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component  
22 of the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the  
23 name and insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates  
24 shall be numbered sequentially for members of a component with  
25 the numbers 1 through 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to  
26 rank.
- 27 (17) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired  
28 member of the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall  
29 bear the phrase 'National Guard'. A plate issued to an active  
30 member shall bear a number that reflects the seniority of the  
31 member; a plate issued to a commissioned officer shall begin with  
32 the number '1'; a plate issued to a noncommissioned officer with a  
33 rank of E7, E8, or E9 shall begin with the number '1601'; a plate  
34 issued to an enlisted member with a rank of E6 or below shall  
35 begin with the number '3001'. The plate issued to a retired or  
36 separated member shall indicate the member's retired status.
- 37 (18) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed  
38 forces of the United States who suffered a service connected  
39 disability of less than 100%.
- 40 (19) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces  
41 of the United States who was present at and survived the attack on  
42 Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase  
43 'Pearl Harbor Survivor' and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor  
44 Survivors' Association.

- 1 (20) Personalized. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle.  
2 The plate will bear the letters or letters and numbers requested by  
3 the owner. The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter  
4 combination that is offensive to good taste and decency. The  
5 Division may not issue a plate that duplicates another plate.
- 6 (21) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to a member or veteran member of the  
7 armed forces of the United States who has been captured and held  
8 prisoner by forces hostile to the United States while serving in the  
9 armed forces.
- 10 (22) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart  
11 award. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Purple Heart Veteran,  
12 Combat Wounded' and the letters 'PH'.
- 13 (23) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed  
14 members of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.
- 15 (24) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
16 modernized private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to  
17 the year 1949 or designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior  
18 to the year 1949. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Street Rod'.
- 19 (25) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the  
20 Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall  
21 bear the letters 'DOT' followed by a number from 1 to 85, as  
22 designated by the Governor.
- 23 (26) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative  
24 for North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. House'  
25 and shall be issued on the basis of Congressional district numbers.
- 26 (27) U.S. Senator. – Issuable to a United States Senator for North  
27 Carolina. The plates shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Senate' and shall  
28 be issued on the basis of seniority represented by the numbers 1  
29 and 2.

30 ~~(b) Fees.—Upon request, the Division shall provide and issue free of charge one~~  
31 ~~registration plate to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a 100% disabled~~  
32 ~~veteran, and an ex prisoner of war. The annual fee for a special plate issuable to an~~  
33 ~~active member of the national guard is the amount of the regular motor vehicle~~  
34 ~~registration fee. The annual fee for a personalized plate issued under this section is the~~  
35 ~~amount of the regular motor vehicle registration fee plus an additional twenty dollars~~  
36 ~~(\$20.00). The annual fee for any other special plate listed in this section is the regular~~  
37 ~~motor vehicle registration fee plus an additional ten dollars (\$10.00).~~

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

(e) ~~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 plus an additional fee in the following amount:

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>Additional Fee Amount</u>
<u>Historical Attractions</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.~~

(a1) Accounts. – The Special Registration Plate Account is established. The Account consists of the revenue derived from ten dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fee collected for any special registration plate. 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 Account.

The Collegiate and Historical Attractions Account is established. The Account consists of the revenue derived from the remainder of the additional fee collected for a collegiate insignia registration plate and an historical attractions registration plate.

(b) Initial Distribution of Proceeds. – After deducting the costs of the special registration plates from the Fund, 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 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:~~ Distribution of Other Proceeds. – The Division shall credit one-half of the revenue derived from the additional fee collected for a personalized registration plate to the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund established under G.S. 113-77.7. The Division shall transfer the revenue in the Collegiate and Historical Attractions Account in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The

1 revenue remaining in the Special Registration Plate Account shall be transferred  
2 quarterly as follows:

- 3 (1) Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of  
4 Economic and Community Development to aid in financing out-of-  
5 state print and other media advertising under the program for the  
6 promotion of travel and industrial development in this State.
- 7 (2) Fifty percent (50%) to the Department of Transportation to be used  
8 solely for the purpose of beautification of highways other than those  
9 designated as interstate. These funds shall be administered by the  
10 Department of Transportation for beautification purposes not  
11 inconsistent with good landscaping and engineering principles.
- 12 (3) Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of Human  
13 Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled persons in this  
14 State. These funds shall be used to collect and update site information  
15 on travel attractions designated by the Department of Economic and  
16 Community Development in its publications, to provide technical  
17 assistance to travel attractions concerning accommodation of disabled  
18 tourists, and to develop, print, and promote the publication ACCESS  
19 NORTH CAROLINA as provided in G.S.168-2. Any funds allocated  
20 for these purposes that are neither spent nor obligated at the end of the  
21 fiscal year shall be transferred to the Department of Administration for  
22 removal of man-made barriers to disabled travelers at State-funded  
23 travel attractions. Guidelines for the removal of man-made barriers  
24 shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Human  
25 Resources."

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

27 **"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia ~~plates~~ plates and historical attractions plates.**

28 (a) Collegiate insignia plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more  
29 applications for a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a  
30 collegiate license plate may be developed. The Division must credit fifteen dollars  
31 (\$15.00) of the additional fee imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for this plate to the Collegiate  
32 and Historical Attractions Account. The Division must transfer the money derived from  
33 the sale of these plates quarterly to the Board of Governors of The University of North  
34 Carolina for public colleges and universities and to the respective board of trustees for  
35 private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate plates sold  
36 representing that institution for use for academic enhancement. The Division shall  
37 develop collegiate license plates as provided in this section for public or private colleges or  
38 universities located in this State. The Division shall issue a collegiate license plate to the  
39 owner of any motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration  
40 Plan or a commercial truck, upon application and payment of the appropriate fees.

41 (b) Historical attractions plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more  
42 applications for an historical attraction plate representing a publicly owned or not-for-  
43 profit historical attraction located in North Carolina and listed below before the plate  
44 may be developed. The Division must credit twenty dollars (\$20.00) of the additional

1 fee imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for this plate to the Collegiate and Historical Attractions  
2 Account. The Division must transfer the money derived from the sale of these plates  
3 quarterly to the organization named below in proportion to the number of historical  
4 attractions plates sold representing that organization.

5 (1) Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. – The revenue derived from the special  
6 plate shall be transferred quarterly to the Board of Directors of the  
7 Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum for the purpose of building and  
8 operating the museum.

9 (2) Old Salem. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be  
10 transferred quarterly to the Board of Directors of Old Salem,  
11 Incorporated, for the purpose of maintaining Old Salem.

12 (3) Spencer Shops. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be  
13 transferred quarterly by the Office of State Budget and Management to  
14 the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources for the purpose  
15 of developing and operating historic Spencer Shops.

16 ~~An owner who desires a collegiate insignia plate shall submit an application for the~~  
17 ~~plate on a form provided by the Division and pay the sum of twenty five dollars~~  
18 ~~(\$25.00) annually, which shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration~~  
19 ~~fee.~~

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

30 (d) ~~Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fee imposed by subsection (b) of this~~  
31 ~~section shall be credited to the Personalized Registration Fund established under G.S.~~  
32 ~~20-81.3 [20-79.7]. The remaining revenue derived from the additional fee imposed by~~  
33 ~~subsection (b) of this section shall be credited to the Collegiate Plate Fund, a separate~~  
34 ~~fund established in the State Treasurer's office. The revenue in the Collegiate Plate~~  
35 ~~Fund shall be transferred quarterly to the Board of Governors of The University of~~  
36 ~~North Carolina for public colleges and universities and to the respective board of~~  
37 ~~trustees for private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate~~  
38 ~~plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement.~~

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

1       (f) ~~The request for a collegiate insignia license plate may be combined with a~~  
2 ~~request that the plate be a special personalized registration plate authorized by G.S. 20-~~  
3 ~~81.3, upon payment of the fees required in that section.~~

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

7           Sec. 4. The Board of Directors of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and  
8 the Board of Directors of Old Salem, Incorporated, may submit applications for their  
9 respective special plates to the Division of Motor Vehicles requesting that the initial  
10 plates bearing the numerals "1" through "100" be issued to the owners named in the  
11 applications. The applications must be submitted to the Division on or before January  
12 1, 1994. The Board of Directors of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and the  
13 Board of Directors of Old Salem, Incorporated, may accept donations from the  
14 applicants for the Atlantic Museum and Old Salem, Incorporated.

15           Sec. 5. Section 4 of this act is effective upon ratification. The remainder of  
16 this act becomes effective January 1, 1994.