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Short Title: Special Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

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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, HIGH SCHOOL INSIGNIA PLATES, 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

1 commercial truck. A holder of a special registration plate who becomes ineligible for
2 the plate, for whatever reason, must return the special plate within 30 days.

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

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

1 followed by a number that represents the district the attorney serves,
2 with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3
3 being the Western District.

- 4 (10) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active
5 regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue
6 squad, or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall
7 bear the words 'Firefighter', 'Rescue Squad', or 'Firefighter-Rescue
8 Squad'.
9 (10a) High School Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
10 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may
11 bear a phrase or an insignia representing a North Carolina public
12 high school.
13 (11) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at
14 least 35 years old measured from the date of manufacture. The
15 plate for a vehicle that is 35 to 50 years old shall bear the phrase
16 'Antique'. The plate for a vehicle that is at least 50 years old shall
17 bear the phrase 'Horseless Carriage'.
18 (11a) Historical Attraction Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
19 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may
20 bear a phrase or an insignia representing a publicly owned or not-
21 for-profit historical attraction located in North Carolina.
22 (12) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary Consulor
23 Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State Department, the plate
24 shall bear the words 'Honorary Consulor Corps' and a distinguishing
25 number based on the order of issuance.
26 (13) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in
27 accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.
28 (14) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General
29 Assembly. The plate shall bear the words 'Senate' or 'State House'
30 followed by the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
31 (15) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall bear
32 the phrase 'U.S. Marshal' followed by a number that represents the
33 district the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being
34 the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
35 (16) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component of
36 the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the name
37 and insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates shall be
38 numbered sequentially for members of a component with the numbers
39 1 through 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to rank.
40 (16a) Military Retiree. – Issuable to an individual who has retired from the
41 armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the phrase
42 'U.S. Armed Forces Retired' and the name of the branch of service
43 from which the individual retired.

- 1 (17) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired member of
2 the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall bear the phrase
3 'National Guard'. A plate issued to an active member shall bear a
4 number that reflects the seniority of the member; a plate issued to a
5 commissioned officer shall begin with the number '1'; a plate issued to
6 a noncommissioned officer with a rank of E7, E8, or E9 shall begin
7 with the number '1601'; a plate issued to an enlisted member with a
8 rank of E6 or below shall begin with the number '3001'. The plate
9 issued to a retired or separated member shall indicate the member's
10 retired status.
- 11 (18) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces
12 of the United States who suffered a service connected disability of less
13 than 100%.
- 14 (19) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of
15 the United States who was present at and survived the attack on Pearl
16 Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase 'Pearl
17 Harbor Survivor' and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor Survivors'
18 Association.
- 19 (20) Personalized. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle.
20 The plate will bear the letters or letters and numbers requested by the
21 owner. The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter
22 combination that is offensive to good taste and decency. The Division
23 may not issue a plate that duplicates another plate.
- 24 (21) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to a member or veteran member of the
25 armed forces of the United States who has been captured and held
26 prisoner by forces hostile to the United States while serving in the
27 armed forces.
- 28 (22) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart
29 award. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Purple Heart Veteran, Combat
30 Wounded' and the letters 'PH'.
- 31 (23) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed
32 members of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.
- 33 (24) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a modernized
34 private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949 or
35 designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949.
36 The plate shall bear the phrase 'Street Rod'.
- 37 (25) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the
38 Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall bear
39 the letters 'DOT' followed by a number from 1 to 85, as designated by
40 the Governor.
- 41 (26) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative for
42 North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. House' and shall
43 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:

| Special Plate | Additional Fee Amount |
|--|-----------------------|
| <u>Historical Attraction</u> | <u>\$30.00</u> |
| <u>Collegiate Insignia</u> | <u>\$25.00</u> |
| <u>Personalized</u> | <u>\$20.00</u> |
| <u>High School Insignia</u> | <u>\$15.00</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 within the Highway Fund. The Account consists of the revenue derived from ten dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fee collected for any special registration plate. The Commissioner

1 shall deduct the costs of the registration plates, including the costs of issuing, handling,
2 and advertising the availability of the special plates from the Account.

3 The Collegiate, High School, and Historical Attractions Account is established
4 within the Highway Fund. The Account consists of the revenue derived from the
5 remainder of the additional fee collected for a collegiate insignia registration plate
6 bearing a phrase or an insignia representing an in-State college or university, a high
7 school insignia registration plate, and an historical attraction registration plate.

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

16 (c) ~~Use of Remaining Proceeds.~~ – ~~The remaining revenue in the Fund shall be~~
17 ~~transferred quarterly as follows:~~ Distribution of Other Proceeds. – The Division shall
18 credit one-half of the revenue derived from the additional fee collected for a
19 personalized registration plate and all of the additional fee collected for a collegiate
20 insignia registration plate bearing a phrase or an insignia representing an out-of-State
21 college or university to the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund established
22 under G.S. 113-77.7. The Division shall transfer the revenue in the Collegiate, High
23 School, and Historical Attractions Account in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The
24 revenue remaining in the Special Registration Plate Account shall be transferred
25 quarterly as follows:

- 26 (1) Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of
27 Economic and Community Development to aid in financing out-of-
28 state print and other media advertising under the program for the
29 promotion of travel and industrial development in this State.
- 30 (2) Fifty percent (50%) to the Department of Transportation to be used
31 solely for the purpose of beautification of highways other than those
32 designated as interstate. These funds shall be administered by the
33 Department of Transportation for beautification purposes not
34 inconsistent with good landscaping and engineering principles.
- 35 (3) Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of Human
36 Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled persons in this
37 State. These funds shall be used to collect and update site information
38 on travel attractions designated by the Department of Economic and
39 Community Development in its publications, to provide technical
40 assistance to travel attractions concerning accommodation of disabled
41 tourists, and to develop, print, and promote the publication ACCESS
42 NORTH CAROLINA as provided in G.S.168-2. Any funds allocated
43 for these purposes that are neither spent nor obligated at the end of the
44 fiscal year shall be transferred to the Department of Administration for

1 removal of man-made barriers to disabled travelers at State-funded
2 travel attractions. Guidelines for the removal of man-made barriers
3 shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Human
4 Resources."

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

6 **"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia ~~plates~~, plates, high school insignia plates, and**
7 **historical attraction plates.**

8 (a) Collegiate Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
9 applications for a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a
10 collegiate license plate may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate
11 must be approved by both the Division and the alumni or alumnae association of the
12 appropriate college or university. The Division must credit fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of
13 the additional fee imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for a collegiate insignia plate bearing a
14 phrase or an insignia representing an in-State college or university to the Collegiate,
15 High School, and Historical Attractions Account. The Division must transfer the money
16 derived from the sale of these plates quarterly to the Board of Governors of The
17 University of North Carolina for in-State, public colleges and universities and to the
18 respective board of trustees for in-State, private colleges and universities in proportion
19 to the number of collegiate plates sold representing that institution for use for academic
20 enhancement. ~~The Division shall develop collegiate license plates as provided in this section~~
21 ~~for public or private colleges or universities located in this State. The Division shall issue a~~
22 ~~collegiate license plate to the owner of any motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the~~
23 ~~International Registration Plan or a commercial truck, upon application and payment of the~~
24 ~~appropriate fees.~~

25 (b) High School Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
26 applications for a high school insignia license plate for a high school before a high
27 school license plate may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate
28 must be approved by both the Division and the board of education having jurisdiction
29 over the high school. The Division must credit five dollars (\$5.00) of the additional fee
30 imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for this plate to the Collegiate, High School, and Historical
31 Attractions Account. The Division must transfer the money derived from the sale of
32 these plates quarterly to the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, Inc., to
33 be used to support play-offs for nonrevenue producing sports sanctioned by the North
34 Carolina High School Athletic Association, Inc.

35 ~~(b)~~ (c) Historical Attraction Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
36 applications for an historical attraction plate representing a publicly owned or not-for-
37 profit historical attraction located in North Carolina and listed below before the plate
38 may be developed. The Division must credit twenty dollars (\$20.00) of the additional
39 fee imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for this plate to the Collegiate, High School, and Historical
40 Attractions Account. The Division must transfer the money derived from the sale of
41 these plates quarterly to the organizations named below in proportion to the number of
42 historical attraction plates sold representing that organization:

43 (1) Historic Attraction Within Historic District. – The revenue derived
44 from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the appropriate

1 Historic Preservation Commission, or entity designated as the Historic
2 Preservation Commission, and used to maintain property in the historic
3 district in which the attraction is located. As used in this subdivision,
4 the term 'historic district' means a district created under G.S. 160A-
5 400.4.

6 (2) Not-for-Profit Historical Attraction. – The revenue derived from the
7 special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the not-for-profit
8 corporation that is responsible for maintaining the attraction for which
9 the plate is issued and used to develop and operate the attraction.

10 (3) State Historic Site. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall
11 be transferred quarterly to the Department of Cultural Resources and
12 used to develop and operate the site for which the plate is issued. As
13 used in this subdivision, the term 'State historic site' has the same
14 meaning as in G.S. 121-2(11).

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

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

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

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

42 ~~(f) The request for a collegiate insignia license plate may be combined with a~~
43 ~~request that the plate be a special personalized registration plate authorized by G.S. 20-~~
44 ~~81.3, upon payment of the fees required in that section.~~

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

4 Sec. 4. The Board of Directors of a not-for-profit corporation responsible for
5 maintaining a Not-for-Profit Historical Attraction may submit applications for a special
6 plate to the Division of Motor Vehicles requesting that the initial plates bearing the
7 numerals "1" through "100" be issued to the owners named in the applications. The
8 applications must be submitted to the Division on or before January 1, 1993. The
9 Boards of Directors named in this section may accept donations from the applicants for
10 the purpose for which revenue received by the Board from the special plate authorized
11 under G.S. 20-81.12, as amended by this act, may be used.

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