

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 631
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/93

Short Title: Wildlife License Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 29, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES DEPICTING WILDLIFE SPECIES IN NORTH CAROLINA AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME FROM THOSE PLATES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-79.4(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(28) Wildlife Resources. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear a picture representing a native wildlife species occurring in North Carolina."

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

"§ 20-79.7. Fees for ~~Special Registration Plates~~ 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>
Historical Attraction	\$30.00
Collegiate Insignia	\$25.00

1	Personalized	\$20.00
2	<u>Wildlife Resources</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
3	All other Special Plates	\$10.00
4	Active Member of the National Guard	None
5	<u>All Other Special Plates</u>	<u>\$10.00.</u>

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

13	Special Plate	SRPA	CHAPA	RNHTF
14	Special Plate	SRPA	FPA	RNHTF
15	Historical Attraction	\$10	\$20	0
16	In-State Collegiate Insignia	\$10	\$15	0
17	Out-of-state Collegiate			
18	Insignia	\$10	0	\$15
19	Personalized	\$10	0	\$10
20	<u>Wildlife Resources</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>
21	All other Special Plates	\$10	0	0.

22 (c) Use of Funds in Special Registration Plate Account. – The Division shall
 23 deduct the costs of special registration plates, including the costs of issuing, handling,
 24 and advertising the availability of the special plates, from the Special Registration Plate
 25 Account. The Division shall transfer the remaining revenue in the Account quarterly as
 26 follows:

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

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

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

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

9 (a) Collegiate Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
10 applications for a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a
11 collegiate license plate may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate
12 must be approved by both the Division and the alumni or alumnae association of the
13 appropriate college or university. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the
14 ~~Collegiate and Historical Attraction Fundraiser~~ Plate Account derived from the sale of in-
15 State collegiate insignia plates to the Board of Governors of The University of North
16 Carolina for in-State, public colleges and universities and to the respective board of
17 trustees for in-State, private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of
18 collegiate plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement.

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

26 (1) Historical Attraction Within Historic District. – The revenue derived
27 from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the appropriate
28 Historic Preservation Commission, or entity designated as the Historic
29 Preservation Commission, and used to maintain property in the historic
30 district in which the attraction is located. As used in this subdivision,
31 the term "historic district" means a district created under G.S. 160A-
32 400.4.

33 (2) Nonprofit Historical Attraction. – The revenue derived from the
34 special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the nonprofit corporation
35 that is responsible for maintaining the attraction for which the plate is
36 issued and used to develop and operate the attraction.

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

42 (c) Wildlife Resources Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
43 applications for a wildlife resources plate with a picture representing a particular native
44 wildlife species occurring in North Carolina before the plate may be developed. The

1 Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Fundraiser Plate Account derived
2 from the sale of wildlife resources plates to the Wildlife Preservation Account
3 established by G.S. 143-247.2.

4 (e) (d) General. – An application for a special license plate named in this section
5 may be made at any time during the year. If the application is made to replace an
6 existing current valid plate, the special plate must be issued with the appropriate decals
7 attached. No refund shall be made to the applicant for any unused portion remaining on
8 the original plate. The request for a special license plate named in this section may be
9 combined with a request that the plate be a personalized license plate.

10 (d) through (g) ~~Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c.~~
11 ~~1042, s. 3, effective January 1, 1993."~~

12 Sec. 4. G.S. 105-269.5 reads as rewritten:

13 "**§ 105-269.5. Contribution of income tax refund to Wildlife Fund-Preservation**
14 **Account.**

15 Any taxpayer entitled to a refund of income taxes under Article 4 of this Chapter
16 may elect to contribute all or part of the refund to the Wildlife Fund ~~for the support of~~
17 ~~wildlife management and protection programs primarily for nongame wildlife species and~~
18 ~~wildlife species which are or may hereafter be designated as endangered or threatened.~~
19 Preservation Account established under G.S. 143-247.2 to be used for the management,
20 protection, and preservation of wildlife in accordance with that statute. The Secretary of
21 ~~Revenue~~ shall provide appropriate language and space on the income tax form in which
22 to make the election. The taxpayer's election ~~shall become~~ becomes irrevocable upon
23 filing the taxpayer's income tax return for the taxable year. The Secretary of ~~Revenue~~
24 shall transmit the contributions made pursuant to this section to the State Treasurer for
25 credit to the Wildlife Fund ~~to be used by the Wildlife Resources Commission only for the~~
26 ~~support of management and protection programs primarily for nongame wildlife and~~
27 ~~endangered and threatened species and to match federal funds which may become available for~~
28 ~~these purposes.~~ Preservation Account."

29 Sec. 5. G.S. 143-247.2 reads as rewritten:

30 "**§ 143-247.2. Contributions for nongame wildlife. Wildlife Preservation Account;**
31 **emblems for those who donate to the Account.**

32 (a) Account. – The Wildlife Preservation Account is established within the
33 Wildlife Resources Fund. Revenue is credited to the Account from donations of income
34 tax refunds, from other donations, and from revenue derived from the sale of wildlife
35 resources license plates. The Commission may use revenue in the Account only to
36 manage, preserve, and protect nongame wildlife species or wildlife species whose
37 existence is endangered.

38 (b) Emblems. – ~~The Wildlife Resources Commission is hereby authorized to may~~
39 ~~issue and sell appropriate emblems by which to identify recipients thereof as~~
40 ~~contributors to a special wildlife conservation fund which shall be held and accounted for as a~~
41 ~~separate part of the Wildlife Resources Fund and which shall be made available to the Wildlife~~
42 ~~Resources Commission for conservation, protection, enhancement, preservation and~~
43 ~~perpetuation of nongame wildlife species and those species which may be endangered or~~
44 ~~threatened with extinction. The special wildlife conservation fund will be audited by the State~~
45 ~~Auditor.~~ the Wildlife Preservation Account. Emblems of different size, shape, type-type,

1 or design may be used to recognize contributions in different ~~amounts, but no such~~
2 ~~emblem shall be issued amounts.~~ The Commission may not issue an emblem for a
3 contribution amounting in value to ~~of~~ less than five dollars (\$5.00)."

4 Sec. 6. This act becomes effective January 1, 1994.