

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

S

5

SENATE BILL 1229

Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 6/19/92

Finance Committee Substitute #2 Adopted 6/25/92

Fourth Edition Engrossed 6/30/92

Committee Substitute Favorable 7/8/92

Short Title: Historical Attraction 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, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME FROM THE SALE OF HISTORICAL ATTRACTION PLATES, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR MILITARY RETIREES.

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

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

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

42 ~~(b) Fees. Upon request, the Division shall provide and issue free of charge one~~  
43 ~~registration plate to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a 100% disabled~~  
44 ~~veteran, and an ex prisoner of war. The annual fee for a special plate issuable to an~~

1 active member of the national guard is the amount of the regular motor vehicle  
 2 registration fee. The annual fee for a personalized plate issued under this section is the  
 3 amount of the regular motor vehicle registration fee plus an additional twenty dollars  
 4 (\$20.00). The annual fee for any other special plate listed in this section is the regular  
 5 motor vehicle registration fee plus an additional ten dollars (\$10.00).

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

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

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

15 "**§ 20-79.7. Special Registration Plate Fund. Fees for Special Registration Plates and**  
 16 **distribution of the fees.**

17 (a) Fees. – Upon request, the Division shall provide and issue free of charge one  
 18 registration plate to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a 100% disabled  
 19 veteran, and an ex-prisoner of war. All other special registration plates are subject to  
 20 the regular motor vehicle registration fee in G.S. 20-87 or G.S. 20-88 plus an additional  
 21 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>All other Special Plates</u>	<u>\$10.00</u>
<u>Active Member of the National Guard</u>	<u>None</u>

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

28 (a1) Accounts. – The Special Registration Plate Account is established within the  
 29 Highway Fund. The Account consists of the revenue derived from ten dollars (\$10.00)  
 30 of the additional fee collected for any special registration plate. The Commissioner  
 31 shall deduct the costs of the registration plates, including the costs of issuing, handling,  
 32 and advertising the availability of the special plates from the Account.

33 The Collegiate and Historical Attractions Account is established within the Highway  
 34 Fund. The Account consists of the revenue derived from the remainder of the additional  
 35 fee collected for a collegiate insignia registration plate and an historical attraction  
 36 registration plate.

37 (b) Initial Distribution of Proceeds. – After deducting the costs of the special  
 38 registration plates from the Fund, Special Registration Plate Account, the Secretary of

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

7 (c) ~~Use of Remaining Proceeds.~~ ~~The remaining revenue in the Fund shall be~~  
8 ~~transferred quarterly as follows:~~ Distribution of Other Proceeds. – The Division shall  
9 credit one-half of the revenue derived from the additional fee collected for a  
10 personalized registration plate to the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund  
11 established under G.S. 113-77.7. The Division shall transfer the revenue in the  
12 Collegiate and Historical Attractions Account in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The  
13 revenue remaining in the Special Registration Plate Account shall be transferred  
14 quarterly as follows:

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

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

39 **"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia ~~plates~~ plates and historical attraction plates.**

40 (a) Collegiate Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more  
41 applications for a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a  
42 collegiate license plate may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate  
43 must be approved by both the Division and the alumni or alumnae association of the  
44 appropriate college or university. The Division must credit fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of

1 the additional fee imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for this plate to the Collegiate and Historical  
2 Attractions Account. The Division must transfer the money derived from the sale of  
3 these plates quarterly to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for  
4 public colleges and universities and to the respective board of trustees for private  
5 colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate plates sold  
6 representing that institution for use for academic enhancement. The Division shall  
7 develop collegiate license plates as provided in this section for public or private colleges or  
8 universities located in this State. The Division shall issue a collegiate license plate to the  
9 owner of any motor vehicle, except a vehicle registered under the International Registration  
10 Plan or a commercial truck, upon application and payment of the appropriate fees.

11 (b) Historical Attraction Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more  
12 applications for an historical attraction plate representing a publicly owned or not-for-  
13 profit historical attraction located in North Carolina and listed below before the plate  
14 may be developed. The Division must credit twenty dollars (\$20.00) of the additional  
15 fee imposed by G.S. 20-79.7 for this plate to the Collegiate and Historical Attractions  
16 Account. The Division must transfer the money derived from the sale of these plates  
17 quarterly to the organizations named below in proportion to the number of historical  
18 attraction plates sold representing that organization.

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

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

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

30 ~~An owner who desires a collegiate insignia plate shall submit an application for the~~  
31 ~~plate on a form provided by the Division and pay the sum of twenty five dollars~~  
32 ~~(\$25.00) annually, which shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration~~  
33 ~~fee.~~

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

44 ~~(d) Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fee imposed by subsection (b) of this~~  
45 ~~section shall be credited to the Personalized Registration Fund established under G.S.~~

1 ~~20-81.3 [20-79.7]. The remaining revenue derived from the additional fee imposed by~~  
2 ~~subsection (b) of this section shall be credited to the Collegiate Plate Fund, a separate~~  
3 ~~fund established in the State Treasurer's office. The revenue in the Collegiate Plate~~  
4 ~~Fund shall be transferred quarterly to the Board of Governors of The University of~~  
5 ~~North Carolina for public colleges and universities and to the respective board of~~  
6 ~~trustees for private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate~~  
7 ~~plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement.~~

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

12 ~~(f) The request for a collegiate insignia license plate may be combined with a~~  
13 ~~request that the plate be a special personalized registration plate authorized by G.S. 20-~~  
14 ~~81.3, upon payment of the fees required in that section.~~

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

18 Sec. 4. The Board of Directors of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and  
19 the Board of Directors of Old Salem, Incorporated, may submit applications for their  
20 respective special plates to the Division of Motor Vehicles requesting that the initial  
21 plates bearing the numerals "1" through "100" be issued to the owners named in the  
22 applications. The applications must be submitted to the Division on or before January  
23 1, 1994. The Board of Directors of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and the  
24 Board of Directors of Old Salem, Incorporated, may accept donations from the  
25 applicants for the Atlantic Museum and Old Salem, Incorporated.

26 Sec. 5. Sections 4 and 5 of this act are effective upon ratification. G.S. 20-  
27 79.4(b)(16a), as enacted by Section 1 of this act, becomes effective January 1, 1993.  
28 The remainder of Section 1 of this act and the remaining sections of this act become  
29 effective January 1, 1994.