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Short Title: Special 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, HIGH SCHOOL INSIGNIA PLATES, TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME FROM THE SALE OF HISTORICAL ATTRACTION AND HIGH SCHOOL INSIGNIA 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

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 North Carolina public or private
35 college or 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:

<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>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 and
6 an historical attraction registration plate.

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

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

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

1 shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Human
2 Resources."

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

4 **"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia ~~plates~~, plates and historical attraction plates.**

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

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

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

38 (1) Blandwood Mansion. – The revenue derived from the special plate
39 shall be transferred quarterly to the Board of Directors of the
40 Greensboro Preservation Society, Incorporated, for the purpose of
41 maintaining Blandwood Mansion in Greensboro.

42 (2) Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. – The revenue derived from the special
43 plate shall be transferred quarterly to the Board of Directors of the

- 1 Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum for the purpose of building and
2 operating the museum.
- 3 (3) Historic Attraction Within Historic District. – The revenue derived
4 from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the appropriate
5 Historic Preservation Commission, or entity designated as the Historic
6 Preservation Commission, and used to maintain property in the historic
7 district in which the attraction is located. As used in this subdivision,
8 the term ‘historic district’ means a district created under G.S. 160A-
9 400.4.
- 10 (3a) State Historic Site. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall
11 be transferred quarterly to the Department of Cultural Resources to be
12 used for the particular State Historic Site for which the plate is issued.
13 For the purpose of this subdivision, a State Historic Site is an historic
14 property as defined in G.S. 121-9.
- 15 (4) Old Salem. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be
16 transferred quarterly to the Board of Directors of Old Salem,
17 Incorporated, for the purpose of maintaining Old Salem.
- 18 (5) Spencer Shops. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be
19 transferred quarterly by the Office of State Budget and Management to
20 the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources for the purpose
21 of developing and operating historic Spencer Shops.

22 ~~An owner who desires a collegiate insignia plate shall submit an application for the~~
23 ~~plate on a form provided by the Division and pay the sum of twenty five dollars~~
24 ~~(\$25.00) annually, which shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration~~
25 ~~fee.~~

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

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

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

5 ~~(f) The request for a collegiate insignia license plate may be combined with a~~
6 ~~request that the plate be a special personalized registration plate authorized by G.S. 20-~~
7 ~~81.3, upon payment of the fees required in that section.~~

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

11 Sec. 4. The Board of Directors of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum,
12 Old Salem, Incorporated, and the Greensboro Preservation Society, Incorporated, may
13 submit applications for their respective special plates to the Division of Motor Vehicles
14 requesting that the initial plates bearing the numerals "1" through "100" be issued to the
15 owners named in the applications. The applications must be submitted to the Division
16 on or before January 1, 1993. The Boards of Directors named in this section may accept
17 donations from the applicants for the purpose for which revenue received by the Board
18 from the special plate authorized under G.S. 20-81.12, as amended by this act, may be
19 used.

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