

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

H

2

HOUSE BILL 1518  
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/18/98

Short Title: Eagle Scout Special Plates.

(Public)

---

Sponsors:

---

Referred to:

---

May 27, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE  
EAGLE SCOUT SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES TO EAGLE SCOUTS OR  
THEIR PARENTS OR GUARDIANS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF  
MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE SMALLER REGISTRATION PLATES FOR  
MOTORCYCLES AND MOTORCYCLE TRAILERS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-79.4(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Types. – 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 that a portable transceiver is carried in the vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase "Amateur Radio". The plate shall bear the operator's official amateur radio call letters, or call letters with numerical or letter suffixes

- 1 so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call letters on  
2 each.
- 3 (3) American Legion. – Issuable to a member of the American Legion. The  
4 plate shall bear the words "American Legion" and the emblem of the  
5 American Legion. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by  
6 this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.
- 7 (4) Civil Air Patrol Member. – Issuable to an active member of the North  
8 Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The plate shall bear the phrase  
9 "Civil Air Patrol". A plate issued to an officer member shall begin with  
10 the number "201" and the number shall reflect the seniority of the  
11 member; a plate issued to an enlisted member, a senior member, or a  
12 cadet member shall begin with the number "501".
- 13 (5) Civic Club. – Issuable to a member of a nationally recognized civic  
14 organization whose member clubs in the State are exempt from State  
15 corporate income tax under G.S. 105-130.11(a)(5). Examples of these  
16 clubs include Jaycees, Kiwanis, Optimist, Rotary, Ruritan, and Shrine.  
17 The plate shall bear a word or phrase identifying the civic club and the  
18 emblem of the civic club. The Division may not issue a civic club plate  
19 authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications  
20 for that civic club plate.
- 21 (6) Class D Citizen's Radio Station Operator. – Issuable to a Class D  
22 citizen's radio station operator. For an operator who has been issued  
23 Class D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal  
24 Communications Commission, the plate shall bear the operator's official  
25 Class D citizen's radio station call letters. For an operator who has not  
26 been issued Class D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal  
27 Communications Commission, the plate shall bear the phrase "Citizen's  
28 Band Radio".
- 29 (7) Clerk of Superior Court. – Issuable to a current or retired clerk of  
30 superior court. A plate issued to a current clerk shall bear the phrase  
31 "Clerk Superior Court" and the letter "C" followed by a number that  
32 indicates the county the clerk serves. A plate issued to a retired clerk  
33 shall bear the phrase "Clerk Superior Court, Retired", the letter  
34 "C" followed by a number that indicates the county the clerk served, and  
35 the letter "X" indicating the clerk's retired status.
- 36 (8) Coast Guard Auxiliary Member. – Issuable to an active member of the  
37 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The plate shall bear the phrase  
38 "Coast Guard Auxiliary".
- 39 (9) Collegiate Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
40 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase  
41 or an insignia representing a public or private college or university.
- 42 (10) Combat Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces who served  
43 in a combat zone, or in waters adjacent to a combat zone, during a

1 period of war and who was separated from the armed forces under  
2 honorable conditions. The Division may not issue the plate authorized  
3 by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the  
4 plate. A "period of war" is any of the following:

- 5 a. World War I, which began April 16, 1917, and ended November  
6 11, 1918.
- 7 b. World War II, which began December 7, 1941, and ended  
8 December 31, 1946.
- 9 c. The Korean Conflict, which began June 27, 1950, and ended  
10 January 31, 1955.
- 11 d. The Vietnam Era, which began August 5, 1964, and ended May  
12 7, 1975.
- 13 e. The Persian Gulf War.
- 14 f. Any other campaign, expedition, or engagement for which the  
15 United States Department of Defense authorizes a campaign  
16 badge or medal.

17 (11) County Commissioner. – Issuable to a county commissioner of a county  
18 in this State. The plate shall bear the words "County  
19 Commissioner" followed first by a number representing the  
20 commissioner's county and then by a letter or number that distinguishes  
21 plates issued to county commissioners of the same county. The number  
22 of a county shall be the order of the county in an alphabetical list of  
23 counties that assigns number one to the first county in the list and a  
24 letter or number to distinguish different cars owned by the county  
25 commissioners in that county. The Division may not issue the plate  
26 authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications  
27 for the plate.

28 (12) Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the  
29 United States who suffered a 100% service-connected disability.

30 (13) District Attorney. – Issuable to a North Carolina or United States  
31 District Attorney. The plate issuable to a North Carolina district attorney  
32 shall bear the letters "DA" followed by a number that represents the  
33 prosecutorial district the district attorney serves. The plate for a United  
34 States attorney shall bear the phrase "U.S. Attorney" followed by a  
35 number that represents the district the attorney serves, with 1 being the  
36 Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western  
37 District.

38 (13a) Eagle Scout. – Issuable to a young man who has been certified as an  
39 Eagle Scout by the Boy Scouts of America, or to his parents or  
40 guardians. The plate shall bear the insignia of the Boy Scouts of  
41 America and shall bear the words "Eagle Scout". The Division may not  
42 issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least  
43 300 applications for the plate.

- 1 (14) 82nd Airborne Division Association Member. – Issuable to a member of  
2 the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. The plate shall bear the  
3 insignia of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc. The Division  
4 may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives  
5 at least 300 applications for the plate.
- 6 (15) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active  
7 regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue squad,  
8 or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall bear the  
9 words "Firefighter", "Rescue Squad", or "Firefighter-Rescue Squad".
- 10 (16) Future Farmers of America. – Issuable to a member or a supporter of the  
11 National Future Farmers of America Organization. The plate shall bear  
12 the emblem of the organization and the letters "FFA". The Division may  
13 not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at  
14 least 300 applications for the plate.
- 15 (17) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at least 35  
16 years old measured from the date of manufacture. The plate for an  
17 historic vehicle shall bear the word "Antique" unless the vehicle is a  
18 model year 1943 or older. The plate for a vehicle that is a model year  
19 1943 or older shall bear the word "Antique" or the words "Horseless  
20 Carriage", at the option of the vehicle owner.
- 21 (18) Historical Attraction Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
22 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase  
23 or an insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit historical  
24 attraction located in North Carolina.
- 25 (19) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary Consular  
26 Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State Department, the plate  
27 shall bear the words "Honorary Consular Corps" and a distinguishing  
28 number based on the order of issuance.
- 29 (20) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in  
30 accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.
- 31 (21) Legion of Valor. – Issuable to a recipient of one of the following  
32 military decorations: the Congressional Medal of Honor, the  
33 Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross.  
34 The plate shall bear the emblem and name of the recipient's decoration.
- 35 (22) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General  
36 Assembly. The plate shall bear "The Great Seal of the State of North  
37 Carolina" and, as appropriate, the word "Senate" or "House" followed by  
38 the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
- 39 (23) Magistrate. – Issuable to a North Carolina magistrate. The plate shall  
40 bear the letters "MJ" followed by a number indicating the district court  
41 district the magistrate serves, then by a hyphen, and then by a number  
42 indicating the seniority of the magistrate. The Division shall use the  
43 number "9" to designate District Court Districts 9 and 9B.

- 1 (24) March of Dimes. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle  
2 in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an  
3 insignia representing the March of Dimes Foundation.
- 4 (25) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall bear the  
5 phrase "U.S. Marshal" followed by a number that represents the district  
6 the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle  
7 District, and 3 being the Western District.
- 8 (26) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component of  
9 the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the name and  
10 insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates shall be numbered  
11 sequentially for members of a component with the numbers 1 through  
12 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to rank.
- 13 (27) Military Retiree. – Issuable to an individual who has retired from the  
14 armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the word  
15 "Retired" and the name and insignia of the branch of service from which  
16 the individual retired. The Division may not issue the plate authorized  
17 by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the  
18 plate.
- 19 (28) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired member of  
20 the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall bear the phrase  
21 "National Guard". A plate issued to an active member shall bear a  
22 number that reflects the seniority of the member; a plate issued to a  
23 commissioned officer shall begin with the number "1"; a plate issued to  
24 a noncommissioned officer with a rank of E7, E8, or E9 shall begin with  
25 the number "1601"; a plate issued to an enlisted member with a rank of  
26 E6 or below shall begin with the number "3001". The plate issued to a  
27 retired or separated member shall indicate the member's retired status.
- 28 (29) Olympic Games. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in  
29 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or insignia  
30 representing the Olympic Games.
- 31 (30) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces  
32 of the United States who suffered a service connected disability of less  
33 than 100%.
- 34 (31) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the  
35 United States who was present at and survived the attack on Pearl  
36 Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase "Pearl  
37 Harbor Survivor" and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor Survivors'  
38 Association.
- 39 (32) Personalized. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle. The  
40 plate will bear the letters or letters and numbers requested by the owner.  
41 The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter combination that is  
42 offensive to good taste and decency. The Division may not issue a plate  
43 that duplicates another plate.

- 1 (33) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to the following:  
2 a. A member or veteran member of the armed forces of the United  
3 States who has been captured and held prisoner by forces hostile  
4 to the United States while serving in the armed forces.  
5 b. The surviving spouse of a person who had a prisoner of war plate  
6 at the time of death so long as the surviving spouse continues to  
7 renew the plate and does not remarry.
- 8 (34) Professional Sports Fan. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
9 vehicle. The plate shall bear the logo of a professional sports team  
10 located in North Carolina. The Division shall receive 300 or more  
11 applications for a professional sports fan plate before a plate may be  
12 issued. The Division shall not develop a professional sports fan plate  
13 unless the professional sports team licenses, without charge, the State to  
14 use the official team logo on the plate.
- 15 (35) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart  
16 award. The plate shall bear the phrase "Purple Heart Veteran, Combat  
17 Wounded" and the letters "PH".
- 18 (36) Register of Deeds. – Issuable to a register of deeds. The plate shall bear  
19 the words "Register of Deeds" and the letter "R" followed by a number  
20 representing the county of the register of deeds. The number of a county  
21 shall be the order of the county in an alphabetical list of counties that  
22 assigns number one to the first county in the list.
- 23 (37) Scenic Rivers. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in  
24 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the words "Scenic  
25 Rivers" and a picture representing the unique beauty of the scenic rivers  
26 of North Carolina.
- 27 (38) School Technology. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
28 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase  
29 or an insignia representing the public school system in North Carolina.
- 30 (39) Sheriff. – Issuable to a current sheriff or to a retired sheriff who served  
31 as sheriff for at least 10 years before retiring. A plate issued to a current  
32 sheriff shall bear the word "Sheriff" and the letter "S" followed by a  
33 number that indicates the county the sheriff serves. A plate issued to a  
34 retired sheriff shall bear the phrase "Sheriff, Retired", the letter  
35 "S" followed by a number that indicates the county the sheriff served,  
36 and the letter "X" indicating the sheriff's retired status.
- 37 (40) Soil and Water Conservation. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
38 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a  
39 phrase and picture appropriate to the subject of water quality and  
40 environmental protection in North Carolina.
- 41 (41) Special Olympics. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle  
42 in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an  
43 insignia representing the North Carolina Special Olympics.

- 1 (42) Square Dance Clubs. – Issuable to a member of a recognized square  
2 dance organization exempt from corporate income tax under G.S. 105-  
3 130.11(a)(5). The plate shall bear a word or phrase identifying the club  
4 and the emblem of the club. The Division shall not issue a dance club  
5 plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300  
6 applications for that dance club plate.
- 7 (43) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed members  
8 of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.
- 9 (44) State Attraction. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in  
10 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an  
11 insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit State or federal  
12 attraction located in North Carolina.
- 13 (45) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a modernized  
14 private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949 or  
15 designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949. The  
16 plate shall bear the phrase "Street Rod". The Division may not issue the  
17 plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300  
18 applications for the plate.
- 19 (46) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the  
20 Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall bear the  
21 letters "DOT" followed by a number from 1 to 85, as designated by the  
22 Governor.
- 23 (47) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative for  
24 North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase "U.S. House" and shall  
25 be issued on the basis of Congressional district numbers.
- 26 (48) U.S. Senator. – Issuable to a United States Senator for North Carolina.  
27 The plates shall bear the phrase "U.S. Senate" and shall be issued on the  
28 basis of seniority represented by the numbers 1 and 2.
- 29 (49) Veterans of Foreign Wars. – Issuable to a member or a supporter of the  
30 Veterans of Foreign Wars. The plate shall bear the words "Veterans of  
31 Foreign Wars" or "VFW" and the emblem of the VFW. The Division  
32 may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives  
33 at least 300 applications for the plate.
- 34 (50) Vietnam Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the  
35 United States who served in Vietnam. The Division may not issue the  
36 plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300  
37 applications for the plate.
- 38 (51) Wildlife Resources. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
39 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear a picture  
40 representing a native wildlife species occurring in North Carolina."

41 Section 2. G.S. 20-63(d) reads as rewritten:

- 42 "(d) Registration plates issued for a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle, trailer,  
43 or semitrailer shall be attached thereto, one in the front and the other in the rear:

1 Provided, that when only one registration plate is issued for a motor vehicle other than a  
2 truck-tractor, said registration plate shall be attached to the rear of the motor vehicle. The  
3 registration plate issued for a truck-tractor shall be attached to the front thereof. Provided  
4 further, that when only one registration plate is issued for a motor vehicle and this motor  
5 vehicle is transporting a substance that may adhere to the plate so as to cover or discolor  
6 the plate or if the motor vehicle has a mechanical loading device that may damage the  
7 plate, the registration plate may be attached to the front of the motor vehicle.

8 Any motor vehicle of the age of 35 years or more from the date of manufacture may  
9 bear the license plates of the year of manufacture instead of the current registration  
10 plates, if the current registration plates are maintained within the vehicle and produced  
11 upon the request of any person.

12 The Division shall provide registered owners of motorcycles and motorcycle trailers  
13 with suitably reduced size registration plates."

14 Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.