

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 1229

Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 6/19/92

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Short Title: Historical Attraction Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

June 8, 1992

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE
2 REGISTRATION PLATES DEPICTING VARIOUS HISTORICAL
3 ATTRACTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA, TO PROVIDE FOR THE
4 DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME FROM THE SALE OF HISTORICAL
5 ATTRACTION PLATES, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR
6 VEHICLES TO ISSUE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR MILITARY
7 RETIREES.
8

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 Section 1. G.S. 20-79.4 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 20-79.4. Special registration plates.**

12 (a) ~~Types.—~~General. — Upon application and payment of the required registration
13 fees, a person may obtain from the Division a special registration plate for a motor
14 vehicle registered in that person's name if the person qualifies for the registration plate.
15 A special registration plate, with the exception of a personalized registration plate, may
16 not be issued for a vehicle registered under the International Registration Plan or for a
17 commercial truck. A holder of a special registration plate who becomes ineligible for
18 the plate, for whatever reason, must return the special plate within 30 days.

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

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

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

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

The Collegiate and Historical Attractions Account is established within the Highway Fund. The Account consists of the revenue derived from the remainder of the additional

1 fee collected for a collegiate insignia registration plate and an historical attraction
2 registration plate.

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

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

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

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

43 "**§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia ~~plates~~, plates and historical attraction plates.**

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

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

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

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

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

35 ~~An owner who desires a collegiate insignia plate shall submit an application for the~~
36 ~~plate on a form provided by the Division and pay the sum of twenty five dollars~~
37 ~~(\$25.00) annually, which shall be in addition to the regular motor vehicle registration~~
38 ~~fee.~~

39 (c) General. – An application for a ~~collegiate insignia~~ special license plate named
40 in this section may be made at any time during the year. If the application is made ~~for a~~
41 ~~collegiate insignia license plate~~ to replace an existing current valid plate, the ~~collegiate~~
42 special plate shall ~~must~~ be issued with the appropriate decals attached. ~~The fee prescribed~~
43 ~~in subsection (b) of this section shall be paid.~~ No refund shall be made to the applicant for
44 any unused portion remaining on the original plate. The request for a special license

1 plate named in this section may be combined with a request that the plate be a
2 personalized license plate. ~~When application is made for a collegiate insignia license at the~~
3 ~~beginning of the applicant's registration period, the normal registration fee must be paid in~~
4 ~~addition to the fee prescribed in subsection (b) of this section.~~

5 ~~(d) Ten dollars (\$10.00) of the additional fee imposed by subsection (b) of this~~
6 ~~section shall be credited to the Personalized Registration Fund established under G.S.~~
7 ~~20-81.3 [20-79.7]. The remaining revenue derived from the additional fee imposed by~~
8 ~~subsection (b) of this section shall be credited to the Collegiate Plate Fund, a separate~~
9 ~~fund established in the State Treasurer's office. The revenue in the Collegiate Plate~~
10 ~~Fund shall be transferred quarterly to the Board of Governors of The University of~~
11 ~~North Carolina for public colleges and universities and to the respective board of~~
12 ~~trustees for private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate~~
13 ~~plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement.~~

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

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

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

24 Sec. 4. The Board of Directors of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and
25 the Board of Directors of Old Salem, Incorporated, may submit applications for their
26 respective special plates to the Division of Motor Vehicles requesting that the initial
27 plates bearing the numerals "1" through "100" be issued to the owners named in the
28 applications. The applications must be submitted to the Division on or before January
29 1, 1994. The Board of Directors of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and the
30 Board of Directors of Old Salem, Incorporated, may accept donations from the
31 applicants for the Atlantic Museum and Old Salem, Incorporated.

32 Sec. 5. Sections 4 and 5 of this act are effective upon ratification. G.S. 20-
33 79.4(b)(16a), as enacted by Section 1 of this act, becomes effective January 1, 1993.
34 The remainder of Section 1 of this act and the remaining sections of this act become
35 effective January 1, 1994.