

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2003

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HOUSE BILL 855*
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/24/03
Third Edition Engrossed 4/29/03
Senate Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 6/26/03
Fifth Edition Engrossed 7/8/03

Short Title: Various Special Registration Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 3, 2003

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO INCREASE THE FEE FOR A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE AND
2 TO CREDIT THE INCREASED FEE REVENUE TO THE NATURAL
3 HERITAGE TRUST FUND AND THE PARKS AND RECREATION TRUST
4 FUND, TO REQUIRE THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION
5 OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL
6 REGISTRATION PLATES THAT HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE MINIMUM
7 NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS WITHIN THREE YEARS OF THEIR
8 AUTHORIZATION AND ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF IDENTIFYING
9 NORTH CAROLINA REGISTRATION PLATES, TO ALLOW THE NC
10 COASTAL FEDERATION SPECIAL PLATE TO HAVE A DIFFERENT PLATE
11 BACKGROUND, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR
12 VEHICLES TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING NEW SPECIAL REGISTRATION
13 PLATES: ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES, BE ACTIVE NC, BLUE RIDGE
14 PARKWAY FOUNDATION, BREAST CANCER AWARENESS, BUFFALO
15 SOLDIERS, CELEBRATE ADOPTION, CRYSTAL COAST ARTIFICIAL REEF
16 ASSOCIATION, DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, FRATERNAL ORDER
17 OF POLICE, FRIENDS OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL, MOTHERS AGAINST
18 DRUNK DRIVING, POW/MIA, RED HAT SOCIETY, RETIRED LAW
19 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, AND ZETA PHI BETA
20 SORORITY.
21

22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-63(b) reads as rewritten:

24 "(b) Every license plate shall have displayed upon it the registration number
25 assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued, the name of the State of North Carolina,
26 which may be abbreviated, and the year number for which it is issued or the date of

1 expiration. A plate issued for a commercial vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.2(1), and
2 weighing 26,001 pounds or more, must bear the word "commercial," unless the plate is
3 a special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4 or the commercial vehicle is a
4 trailer or is licensed for 6,000 pounds or less. The plate issued for vehicles licensed for
5 7,000 pounds through 26,000 pounds must bear the word "weighted".

6 ~~A-Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a registration plate issued by the~~
7 ~~Division for a private passenger vehicle or for a private hauler vehicle licensed for~~
8 ~~6,000 pounds or less, other than a Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park~~
9 ~~special registration plate or a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation special registration plate~~
10 ~~less shall be a "First in Flight" plate. A "First in Flight" plate shall have the words "First~~
11 ~~in Flight" printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals. The~~
12 ~~background of the plate shall depict the Wright Brothers biplane flying over Kitty Hawk~~
13 ~~Beach, with the plane flying slightly upward and to the right. The following special~~
14 ~~registration plates do not have to be a "First in Flight" plate. The design of the plates~~
15 ~~that are not "First in Flight" plates must be approved by the Division and the State~~
16 ~~Highway Patrol for clarity and ease of identification.~~

17 (1) Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

18 (2) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

19 (3) Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

20 (4) Friends of the Appalachian Trail.

21 (5) NC Coastal Federation."

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-79.4(b), as amended by S.L. 2003-10, 2003-11, and
23 2003-68, is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to read:

24 "(b) Types. – The Division shall issue the following types of special registration
25 plates:

26 ...

27 (1e) Alternative Fuel Vehicles. – Issuable to the registered owner of an
28 alternative fuel vehicle. The plate shall bear the words "Alternative
29 Fuel Vehicle". The Division must receive 300 or more applications for
30 the plate before it may be developed.

31 ...

32 (3e) Be Active NC. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in
33 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the phrase "Be
34 Active NC" and a representation of the "Be Active NC" logo.

35 ...

36 (3h) Breast Cancer Awareness. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
37 motor vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase "Early Detection Saves
38 Lives" and a representation of a pink ribbon. The Division must
39 receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be
40 developed.

41 ...

42 (3d)(3j) Bronze Star Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Bronze Star. The
43 plate shall bear the emblem of the Bronze Star and the words "Bronze
44 Star".

- 1 ...
- 2 (3m) Buffalo Soldiers. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle
- 3 in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the words "The
- 4 Buffalo Soldiers" and the logo of the 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry
- 5 Association of the Buffalo Soldiers Greater North Carolina Chapter
- 6 (BSGNCC).
- 7 ...
- 8 (3p) Celebrate Adoption. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
- 9 vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase "Celebrate Adoption" and a
- 10 representation of a white ribbon with a red heart on it. The Division
- 11 must receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be
- 12 developed.
- 13 ...
- 14 (11d) Crystal Coast. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in
- 15 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the words "Crystal
- 16 Coast Artificial Reef Association" and a representation of a SCUBA
- 17 diving flag.
- 18 ...
- 19 (11g) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
- 20 motor vehicle. The plate shall bear the sorority's name and symbol.
- 21 The Division must receive 300 or more applications for the plate
- 22 before it may be developed.
- 23 ...
- 24 (15e) Fraternal Order of Police. – The plate authorized by this subdivision
- 25 shall bear a representation of the Fraternal Order of Police emblem
- 26 containing the letters 'FOP'. The Division must receive 300
- 27 applications for the plate before it may be developed. The plate is
- 28 issuable to one of the following:
- 29 a. A person who presents proof of active membership in the State
- 30 Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police for the year in which the
- 31 license plate is sought.
- 32 b. The surviving spouse of a person who was a member of the
- 33 State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police, so long as the surviving
- 34 spouse continues to renew the plate and does not remarry.
- 35 ...
- 36 (27e) Mothers Against Drunk Driving. – Issuable to the registered owner of
- 37 a motor vehicle. The plate shall bear the letters "M.A.D.D." and the
- 38 words "Mothers Against Drunk Driving". The Division must receive
- 39 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be developed.
- 40 ...
- 41 (32c) POW/MIA. – Issuable to the owner of a motor vehicle. The plate shall
- 42 bear the official POW/MIA logo. The Division must receive 300 or
- 43 more applications for the plate before it may be developed.
- 44 ...

1 ~~(36)~~(35d) Register of Deeds. – Issuable to a register of deeds. The plate shall
2 bear the words "Register of Deeds" and the letter "R" followed by a
3 number representing the county of the register of deeds. The number
4 of a county shall be the order of the county in an alphabetical list of
5 counties that assigns number one to the first county in the list.

6 ...

7 (36) Red Hat Society. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle.
8 The plate shall bear a representation of The Red Hat Society. The
9 Division shall not use the name and logo of The Red Hat Society, Inc.,
10 on the plate unless The Red Hat Society, Inc., licenses, without charge,
11 the State to use the name and logo on the plate. The Division must
12 receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be
13 developed.

14 ...

15 (36b) Retired Law Enforcement Officers. – The plate authorized by this
16 subdivision shall bear the phrase "Retired Law Enforcement Officer"
17 and a representation of a law enforcement badge. The Division must
18 receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be
19 developed. The plate is issuable to one of the following:

20 a. A retired law enforcement officer presenting to the Division,
21 along with the application for the plate, a copy of the officer's
22 retired identification card or letter of retirement.

23 b. The surviving spouse of a person who had a retired law
24 enforcement officer plate at the time of death so long as the
25 surviving spouse continues to renew the plate and does not
26 remarry.

27 ...

28 ~~(36b)~~(36e) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. – Issuable to the
29 registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12.
30 The plate shall bear the phrase "Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation" and
31 a logo approved by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inc.

32 ...

33 ~~(36e)~~(36h) Save the Sea Turtles. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
34 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear
35 the phrase "Save the Sea Turtles" and a representation related to sea
36 turtles.

37 ...

38 (45d) Surveyor Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in
39 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the words
40 "Following In Their Footsteps" and shall bear a picture of a transit.

41 ...

42 ~~(45b)~~(45f) Sweet Potato. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
43 vehicle. The plate may bear a phrase and picture representing the
44 State's official vegetable, the sweet potato. The Division may not issue

the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.

...

(45e)(45i) Tobacco Heritage. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle. The plate shall bear a picture of a tobacco leaf and plow. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.

...

(52) Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the sorority's name and symbol."

SECTION 3. G.S. 20-79.7(a), as amended by S.L. 2003-11 and 2003-68, reads as rewritten:

"(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, including additional Congressional Medal of Honor, 100% Disabled Veteran, and Ex-Prisoner of War 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>
Crystal Coast	\$40.00 \$40.00
Historical Attraction	\$30.00 \$40.00
State Attraction	\$30.00 \$40.00
<u>Buffalo Soldiers</u>	<u>\$35.00</u>
Collegiate Insignia	\$25.00 \$35.00
Goodness Grows	\$25.00 \$35.00
Kids First	\$25.00 \$35.00
Olympic Games	\$25.00 \$35.00
NC Agribusiness	\$25.00 \$35.00
NC Coastal Federation	\$25.00 \$35.00
Nurses	\$25.00 \$35.00
(Effective until June 30, 2006)	
<u>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</u>	<u>\$35.00</u>
Special Olympics	\$25.00 \$35.00
<u>Surveyor Plate</u>	<u>\$35.00</u>
The V Foundation for Cancer Research Division	\$25.00 \$35.00
University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina	\$25.00 \$35.00
Animal Lovers	\$20.00 \$30.00
Audubon North Carolina	\$20.00 \$30.00
<u>Be Active NC</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
Ducks Unlimited	\$20.00 \$30.00
(Effective until June 30, 2006)	
Harley Owners' Group	\$20.00 \$30.00
First in Forestry	\$20.00 \$30.00

1	Litter Prevention	\$20.00\$30.00
2	March of Dimes	\$20.00\$30.00
3	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity	\$20.00\$30.00
4	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$25.00
5	Save the Sea Turtles	\$20.00\$30.00
6	Scenic Rivers	\$20.00\$30.00
7	School Technology	\$20.00\$30.00
8	Soil and Water Conservation	\$20.00\$30.00
9	Special Forces Association	\$20.00\$30.00
10	Support Public Schools	\$20.00\$30.00
11	Wildlife Resources	\$20.00\$30.00
12	<u>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority</u>	\$30.00
13	Personalized	\$20.00\$30.00
14	Active Member of the National Guard	None
15	100% Disabled Veteran	None
16	Ex-Prisoner of War	None
17	Legion of Valor	None
18	Purple Heart Recipient	None
19	Silver Star Recipient	None
20	All Other Special Plates	\$10.00-\$20.00."

21 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-79.7(b), as amended by S.L. 2003-11 and 2003-68,
 22 reads as rewritten:

23 "(b) Distribution of Fees. – The Special Registration Plate Account and the
 24 Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account are established within the Highway
 25 Fund. The Division must credit the additional fee imposed for the special registration
 26 plates listed in subsection (a) among the Special Registration Plate Account (SRPA), the
 27 Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account (CCAPA), ~~and~~ the Natural Heritage
 28 Trust Fund (NHTF), which is established under G.S. 113-77.7, and the Parks and
 29 Recreation Trust Fund, which is established under G.S. 113-44.15, as follows:

30	<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>SRPA</u>	<u>CCAPA</u>	<u>NHTF</u>	<u>PRTF</u>
31	Animal Lovers	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	\$5
32	Audubon North Carolina	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	\$5
33	<u>Be Active NC</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
34	<u>Buffalo Soldiers</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
35	<u>Crystal Coast</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
36	Ducks Unlimited	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	\$5
37	First in Forestry	\$10	0	\$10 \$15	\$5
38	Goodness Grows	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	\$5
39	(Effective until June 30, 2006)				
40	Harley Owners' Group	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	\$5
41	Historical Attraction	\$10	\$20	0 \$5	\$5
42	In-State Collegiate Insignia	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	\$5
43	Kids First	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	\$5
44	Litter Prevention	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	\$5

1	March of Dimes	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
2	NC Agribusiness	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
3	NC Coastal Federation	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
4	Nurses	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
5	Olympic Games	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
6	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
7	Out-of-state Collegiate Insignia	\$10	0	\$15 \$20	<u>\$5</u>
8	Personalized	\$10	0	\$10 \$15	<u>\$5</u>
9	(Effective until June 30, 2006)				
10	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
11	Save the Sea Turtles	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
12	Scenic Rivers	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
13	School Technology	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
14	Soil and Water Conservation	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
15	Special Forces Association	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
16	Special Olympics	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
17	State Attraction	\$10	\$20	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
18	Support Public Schools	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
19	<u>Surveyor Plate</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
20	The V Foundation for				
21	Cancer Research	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
22	University Health Systems				
23	of Eastern Carolina	\$10	\$15	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
24	Wildlife Resources	\$10	\$10	0 \$5	<u>\$5</u>
25	<u>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
26	All other Special Plates	\$10	0	0 -\$5	<u>\$5.</u> "

SECTION 5. G.S. 20-81.12(b2) reads as rewritten:

"(b2) State Attraction Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for a State attraction plate before the plate may be developed. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of State attraction plates to the organizations named below in proportion to the number of State attraction plates sold representing that organization:

(1) Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation for use in promoting and preserving the Blue Ridge Parkway as a scenic attraction in North Carolina.

~~(4)~~(1a) Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Inc., to be used for educational materials, preservation programs, capital improvements for the portion of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that is located in North Carolina, and operating expenses of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

1 (1b) Friends of the Appalachian Trail. – The revenue derived from the
2 special plate shall be transferred quarterly to The Appalachian Trail
3 Conference to be used for educational materials, preservation
4 programs, trail maintenance, trailway and viewshed acquisitions,
5 trailway and viewshed easement acquisitions, capital improvements
6 for the portions of the Appalachian Trail and connecting trails that are
7 located in North Carolina, and related administrative and operating
8 expenses.

9 ~~(1a)~~(1c) The North Carolina Arboretum. – The revenue derived from the
10 special plate shall be transferred quarterly to The North Carolina
11 Arboretum Society and used to help the Society obtain grants for the
12 North Carolina Arboretum and for capital improvements to the North
13 Carolina Arboretum.

14 ~~(1b)~~(1d) The North Carolina Maritime Museum. – The revenue derived
15 from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to Friends of the
16 Museum, North Carolina Maritime Museum, Inc., to be used for
17 educational programs and conservation programs and for operating
18 expenses of the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

19 (2) The North Carolina Zoological Society. – The revenue derived from
20 the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to The North Carolina
21 Zoological Society, Incorporated, to be used for educational programs
22 and conservation programs at the North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro and
23 for operating expenses of the North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro."

24 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 20-81.12, as amended by S.L. 2003-11 and S.L. 2003-68,
25 is amended by adding the following new subsections to read:

26 "(b26) Be Active NC. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for the
27 Be Active NC plate before the plate may be developed. The Division shall transfer
28 quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived
29 from the sale of the Be Active NC plates to Be Active North Carolina, Inc., to be used
30 to promote physical activity in North Carolina communities.

31 (b27) Buffalo Soldiers. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for
32 the Buffalo Soldiers plate before the plate may be developed. The Division shall transfer
33 quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived
34 from the sale of the Buffalo Soldiers plates to the 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry
35 Association of the Buffalo Soldiers Greater North Carolina Chapter (BSGNCC) for its
36 public outreach programs.

37 (b28) Crystal Coast. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for the
38 Crystal Coast plate before the plate may be developed. The Division shall transfer
39 quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived
40 from the sale of Crystal Coast plates to the Crystal Coast Artificial Reef Association to
41 be used to promote scuba diving off the Crystal Coast.

42 (b29) Surveyor Plate. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for a
43 Surveyor plate before the plate may be developed. The Division shall transfer quarterly
44 the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale

1 of Surveyor plates to The North Carolina Society of Surveyors Education Foundation,
2 Inc., for public educational programs.

3 (b30) Zeta Phi Beta Sorority. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications
4 for a Zeta Phi Beta Sorority plate before the plate may be developed. The Division shall
5 transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account
6 derived from the sale of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority plates to the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority
7 Education Foundation, through the Raleigh office, for the benefit of undergraduate
8 scholarships in this State."

9 **SECTION 7.** The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee
10 shall review the number of special registration plates that have not received the
11 minimum number of applications in the three years since their authorization, and the
12 Committee shall consider repealing the authority for these plates. The Committee may
13 also consider the registration plate background and other alternative methods of
14 identifying North Carolina vehicles.

15 **SECTION 8.** Sections 7 and 8 of this act are effective when they become
16 law. The remainder of this act becomes effective January 1, 2004.