

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2015

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SENATE BILL 706

Short Title: HBCU Innovation Fund. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators D. Davis, Bryant, Robinson (Primary Sponsors); Lowe, Smith-Ingram, Van Duyn, and Waddell.

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate.

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO CREATE THE HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
ENDOWMENT FUND AND THE HBCU INNOVATION SPECIAL REGISTRATION
PLATE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
Article to read:

"Article 34.

"North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund.

"§ 116-290. Establishment of the North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and
Universities Innovation Endowment Fund.

(a) There is established the North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Innovation Endowment Fund (HBCU Innovation Fund). The Fund shall be a special fund
consisting of (i) moneys credited to it under G.S. 20-81.12 from the sale of "HBCU Innovation"
special registration plates; (ii) proceeds of any gifts, grants, or contributions to the State that are
specifically designated for inclusion in the Fund; (iii) appropriations made to it by the General
Assembly; and (iv) interest accrued to it thereon. Moneys in the Fund shall be available for
expenditure only upon an act of appropriation by the General Assembly.

(b) The General Assembly shall only appropriate moneys in the North Carolina
Historically Black Colleges and Universities Endowment Fund for programs and initiatives that
increase the rates of enrollment, retention, and graduation rates at the historically black colleges
and universities of The University of North Carolina."

SECTION 2. G.S. 20-79.4(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

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

...

(i) HBCU Innovation. - Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in
accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall display the logos for each of
the historically black colleges and universities in The University of North
Carolina."

SECTION 3. G.S. 20-81.12 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(i) HBCU Innovation Plates. - The Division must receive 300 or more applications for
the HBCU Innovation plate before the plate may be developed. The Division shall transfer
quarterly the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the
sale of HBCU Innovation plates to the North Carolina Education Endowment Fund established
pursuant to G.S. 115C-472.16."



1 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-79.7 reads as rewritten:
 2 "**§ 20-79.7. Fees for special registration plates and distribution of the fees.**

3 ...
 4 (a1) Fees. – All other special registration plates are subject to the regular motor vehicle
 5 registration fee in G.S. 20-87 or G.S. 20-88 plus an additional fee in the following amount:

6 Special Plate	7 Additional Fee Amount
8 Greensboro Symphony Guild	\$30.00
9 <u>HBCU Innovation</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
10 Historical Attraction	\$30.00

11 ...
 12 (b) Distribution of Fees. – The Special Registration Plate Account and the Collegiate
 13 and Cultural Attraction Plate Account are established within the Highway Fund. The Division
 14 must credit the additional fee imposed for the special registration plates listed in subsection (a)
 15 of this section among the Special Registration Plate Account (SRPA), the Collegiate and
 16 Cultural Attraction Plate Account (CCAPA), the Clean Water Management Trust Fund
 17 (CWMTF), which is established under G.S. 113A-253, and the Parks and Recreation Trust
 18 Fund, which is established under G.S. 113-44.15, as follows:

19 Special Plate	20 SRPA	21 CCAPA	22 NHTEF	23 PRTF
24 ... 25 Harley Owners' Group	\$10	\$15	0	0
26 <u>HBCU Innovation</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
27 High School Insignia	\$10	\$10	0	0

28 ..."
 29 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-63(b1) reads as rewritten:

30 "(b1) The following special registration plates do not have to be a "First in Flight" plate as
 31 provided in subsection (b) of this section. The design of the plates that are not "First in Flight"
 32 plates must be developed in accordance with G.S. 20-79.4(a3). For special plates authorized in
 33 G.S. 20-79.7 on or after July 1, 2013, the Division may not issue the plate on a background
 34 under this subsection unless it receives at least 200 applications for the plate in addition to the
 35 applications required under G.S. 20-79.4 or G.S. 20-81.12.

- 36 ...
 37 (44) I Support Teachers.
 38 (45) HBCU Innovation."

39 **SECTION 6.** The Revisor of Statutes is authorized to alphabetize, number, and
 40 renumber the special registration plates listed in G.S. 20-79.4(b) to ensure that all the special
 41 registration plates are listed in alphabetical order and numbered accordingly.

42 **SECTION 7.** Article 9 of Subchapter I of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is
 43 amended by adding a new section to read:

44 "**§ 105-269.8. Contribution of income tax refund or payment to the Historically Black**
 45 **Colleges and Universities Innovation Endowment Fund.**

46 Any taxpayer entitled to a refund of income taxes under Article 4 of this Chapter, or any
 47 taxpayer who desires to make a contribution, may elect to contribute all or part of the refund or
 48 may make a contribution to the North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities
 49 Innovation Endowment Fund established pursuant to G.S. 116-290 to be used in accordance
 50 with that statute. The Secretary shall provide appropriate language and space on the income tax
 51 form in which to make the election or contribution. The taxpayer's election or contribution
becomes irrevocable upon filing the taxpayer's income tax return for the taxable year. The
Secretary shall transmit the amounts designated pursuant to this section to the State Treasurer
for credit to the North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities Innovation
Endowment Fund."

1 **SECTION 8.** Section 7 of this act is effective for taxable years beginning on or
2 after January 1, 2016. The remainder of the act becomes effective July 1, 2015.