

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SENATE BILL 161
Second Edition Engrossed 3/17/93
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Short Title: Special/Multiyear Plate Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 15, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ALLOW ALL TRAILERS TO OBTAIN MULTIYEAR LICENSE PLATES, TO REDEFINE A "HORSELESS CARRIAGE" AS A VEHICLE THAT IS A MODEL YEAR 1943 OR OLDER, TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE SPECIALIZED REGISTRATION PLATES BEARING THE EMBLEM OF A CIVIC CLUB, TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE SPECIALIZED REGISTRATION PLATES DEPICTING VARIOUS STATE ATTRACTIONS IN NORTH CAROLINA AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF INCOME FROM THESE PLATES, TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE SPECIALIZED REGISTRATION PLATES BEARING THE EMBLEM OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISPOSITION OF INCOME FROM THESE PLATES, AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE LAWS CONCERNING SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-88(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) ~~There shall be paid to the Division annually, as of the first day of January, for the registration and licensing of trailers or semitrailers. The fee for a semitrailer or trailer is ten dollars (\$10.00) for each year or any part of the license year for which said license is~~

1 ~~issued~~ a year. The fee is payable on or before January 1 of each year. Upon the
2 application of the owner of a ~~semitrailer, semitrailer or trailer~~, the Division may issue a
3 multiyear plate and registration card for the semitrailer or trailer for a fee of seventy-
4 five dollars (\$75.00). A multiyear plate and registration card for a semitrailer or trailer
5 are valid until the owner transfers the semitrailer or trailer to another person or
6 surrenders the plate and registration card to the Division. A multiyear plate may not be
7 transferred to another vehicle.

8 The Division shall issue a multiyear semitrailer or trailer plate in a different color
9 than an annual semitrailer or trailer plate and shall include the word 'multiyear' on the
10 plate. The Division may not issue a multiyear plate for a house trailer."

11 Sec. 2. G.S. 20-79.4(b) reads as rewritten:

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

- 14 (1) Administrative Officer of the Courts. – Issuable to the Director of the
15 Administrative Office of the Courts. The plate shall bear the phrase 'J-
16 20'.
- 17 (2) Amateur Radio Operator. – Issuable to an amateur radio operator who
18 holds an unexpired and unrevoked amateur radio license issued by the
19 Federal Communications Commission and who asserts to the Division
20 that a portable transceiver is carried in the vehicle. The plate shall
21 bear the phrase 'Amateur Radio.' The plate shall bear the operator's
22 official amateur radio call letters, or call letters with numerical or letter
23 suffixes so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call
24 letters on each.
- 25 (3) Civil Air Patrol Member. – Issuable to an active member of the North
26 Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The plate shall bear the phrase
27 'Civil Air Patrol'. A plate issued to an officer member shall begin with
28 the number '201' and the number shall reflect the seniority of the
29 member; a plate issued to an enlisted member, a senior member, or a
30 cadet member shall begin with the number '501'.
- 31 (3a) Civic Club. – Issuable to a member of a nationally recognized civic
32 organization whose member clubs in the State are exempt from State
33 corporate income tax under G.S. 105-130.11(a)(5). Examples of these
34 clubs include Jaycees, Kiwanis, Optimists, and Ruritans. The plate
35 shall bear the emblem of the civic club and a word or phrase
36 identifying the civic club. The Division may not issue a civic club
37 plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300
38 applications for that civic club plate.
- 39 (4) Class D Citizen's Radio Station Operator. – Issuable to a Class D
40 citizen's radio station ~~operator licensed by the Federal Communications~~
41 ~~Commission operator.~~ The For an operator who has been issued Class
42 D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal Communications
43 Commission, the plate shall bear the operator's official Class D
44 citizen's radio station call letters. For an operator who has not been

- 1 issued Class D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal
2 Communications Commission, the plate shall bear the phrase 'Citizen's
3 Band Radio'.
- 4 (5) Clerk of Superior Court. – Issuable to a clerk of superior court. The
5 plate shall bear the phrase 'Clerk Superior Court' and the letter 'C'
6 followed by a number that indicates the county the clerk serves.
- 7 (6) Coast Guard Auxiliary Member. – Issuable to an active member of the
8 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The plate shall bear the phrase
9 'Coast Guard Auxiliary'.
- 10 (6a) Collegiate Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
11 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a
12 phrase or an insignia representing a public or private college or
13 university.
- 14 (7) Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of
15 the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 16 (8) Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the
17 United States who suffered a 100% service-connected disability.
- 18 (9) District Attorney. – Issuable to a North Carolina or United States
19 District Attorney. The plate issuable to a North Carolina district
20 attorney shall bear the letters 'DA' followed by a number that
21 represents the prosecutorial district the district attorney serves. The
22 plate for a United States attorney shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Attorney'
23 followed by a number that represents the district the attorney serves,
24 with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3
25 being the Western District.
- 26 (10) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active
27 regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue
28 squad, or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall bear
29 the words 'Firefighter', 'Rescue Squad', or 'Firefighter-Rescue Squad'.
- 30 (11) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at least
31 35 years old measured from the date of manufacture. ~~The plate for a~~
32 ~~vehicle that is 35 to 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Antique'. The plate~~
33 ~~for a vehicle that is at least 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Horseless~~
34 ~~Carriage'.—~~The plate for an historic vehicle shall bear the phrase
35 'Antique' unless the vehicle is a model year 1943 or older. The plate
36 for a vehicle that is a model year 1943 or older shall bear the phrase
37 'Horseless Carriage'.
- 38 (11a) Historical Attraction Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
39 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a
40 phrase or an insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit
41 historical attraction located in North Carolina.
- 42 (12) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary ~~Consular~~
43 Consular Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State Department,

- 1 the plate shall bear the words 'Honorary ~~Consular~~ Consular Corps' and
2 a distinguishing number based on the order of issuance.
- 3 (13) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in
4 accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.
- 5 (14) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General
6 Assembly. The plate shall bear the words 'Senate' or 'State House'
7 followed by the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
- 8 (15) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall bear
9 the phrase 'U.S. Marshal' followed by a number that represents the
10 district the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being
11 the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- 12 (16) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component of
13 the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the name
14 and insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates shall be
15 numbered sequentially for members of a component with the numbers
16 1 through 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to rank.
- 17 (16a) Military Retiree. – Issuable to an individual who has retired from the
18 armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the ~~phrase 'U.S.~~
19 ~~Armed Forces Retired'~~ word 'Retired' and the name and insignia of the
20 branch of service from which the individual retired. The Division may
21 not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at
22 least 300 applications for the plate.
- 23 (17) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired member of
24 the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall bear the phrase
25 'National Guard'. A plate issued to an active member shall bear a
26 number that reflects the seniority of the member; a plate issued to a
27 commissioned officer shall begin with the number '1'; a plate issued to
28 a noncommissioned officer with a rank of E7, E8, or E9 shall begin
29 with the number '1601'; a plate issued to an enlisted member with a
30 rank of E6 or below shall begin with the number '3001'. The plate
31 issued to a retired or separated member shall indicate the member's
32 retired status.
- 33 (18) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces
34 of the United States who suffered a service connected disability of less
35 than 100%.
- 36 (19) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of
37 the United States who was present at and survived the attack on Pearl
38 Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase 'Pearl
39 Harbor Survivor' and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor Survivors'
40 Association.
- 41 (20) Personalized. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle.
42 The plate will bear the letters or letters and numbers requested by the
43 owner. The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter

1 combination that is offensive to good taste and decency. The Division
2 may not issue a plate that duplicates another plate.

3 (21) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to ~~a~~the following:

4 a. A member or veteran member of the armed forces of the United
5 States who has been captured and held prisoner by forces
6 hostile to the United States while serving in the armed forces.

7 b. The surviving spouse of a person who had a prisoner of war
8 plate at the time of death so long as the surviving spouse
9 continues to renew the plate and does not remarry.

10 (22) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart
11 award. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Purple Heart Veteran, Combat
12 Wounded' and the letters 'PH'.

13 (22a) Special Olympics. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
14 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a
15 phrase or an insignia representing the North Carolina Special
16 Olympics.

17 (23) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed
18 members of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.

19 (23a) State Attractions. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle
20 in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an
21 insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit State attraction
22 located in North Carolina.

23 (24) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a modernized
24 private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949 or
25 designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949.
26 The plate shall bear the phrase 'Street Rod'. The Division may not
27 issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least
28 300 applications for the plate.

29 (25) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the
30 Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall bear
31 the letters 'DOT' followed by a number from 1 to 85, as designated by
32 the Governor.

33 (26) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative for
34 North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. House' and shall
35 be issued on the basis of Congressional district numbers.

36 (27) U.S. Senator. – Issuable to a United States Senator for North Carolina.
37 The plates shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Senate' and shall be issued on the
38 basis of seniority represented by the numbers 1 and 2."

39 Sec. 3. G.S. 20-79.7 reads as rewritten:

40 "**§ 20-79.7. Fees for ~~Special Registration Plates~~ special registration plates and**
41 **distribution of the fees.**

42 (a) Fees. – Upon request, the Division shall provide and issue free of charge one
43 registration plate to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a 100% disabled
44 veteran, and an ex-prisoner of war. All other special registration plates are subject to

1 the regular motor vehicle registration fee in G.S. 20-87 or G.S. 20-88 plus an additional
 2 fee in the following amount:

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>Additional Fee Amount</u>
4 Historical Attraction	\$30.00
5 <u>State Attractions</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
6 Collegiate Insignia	\$25.00
7 <u>Special Olympics</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
8 Personalized	\$20.00
9 All other Special Plates	\$10.00
10 Active Member of the National Guard	None
11 <u>All Other Special Plates</u>	<u>\$10.00.</u>

12 (b) Distribution of Fees. – The Special Registration Plate Account and the
 13 Collegiate and ~~Historical–State~~ Attraction Plate Account are established within the
 14 Highway Fund. The Division must credit the additional fee imposed for the special
 15 registration plates listed in subsection (a) among the Special Registration Plate Account
 16 (SRPA), the Collegiate and ~~Historical–State~~ Attraction Plate Account (~~CHAPA~~)
 17 (CSAPA), and the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund (RNHTF), which is
 18 established under G.S. 113-77.7, as follows:

Special Plate	SRPA	CHAPA	RNHTF	
Special Plate	SRPA	CSAPA	RNHTF	
21 Historical Attraction	\$10	\$20	0	
22 In-State Collegiate Insignia	\$10	\$15	0	
23 Out-of-state Collegiate Insignia		\$10	0	\$15
24 Personalized	\$10	0	\$10	
25 <u>Special Olympics</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>0</u>	
26 <u>State Attractions</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>0</u>	
27 All other Special Plates	\$10	0	0	

28 (c) Use of Funds in Special Registration Plate Account. – The Division shall
 29 deduct the costs of special registration plates, including the costs of issuing, handling,
 30 and advertising the availability of the special plates, from the Special Registration Plate
 31 Account. The Division shall transfer the remaining revenue in the Account quarterly as
 32 follows:

- 33 (1) Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of
 34 Economic and Community Development to aid in financing out-of-
 35 state print and other media advertising under the program for the
 36 promotion of travel and industrial development in this State.
- 37 (2) Fifty percent (50%) to the Department of Transportation to be used
 38 solely for the purpose of beautification of highways other than those
 39 designated as interstate. These funds shall be administered by the
 40 Department of Transportation for beautification purposes not
 41 inconsistent with good landscaping and engineering principles.
- 42 (3) Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of Human
 43 Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled persons in this
 44 State. These funds shall be used to collect and update site information

1 on travel attractions designated by the Department of Economic and
2 Community Development in its publications, to provide technical
3 assistance to travel attractions concerning accommodation of disabled
4 tourists, and to develop, print, and promote the publication ACCESS
5 NORTH CAROLINA as provided in G.S.168-2. Any funds allocated
6 for these purposes that are neither spent nor obligated at the end of the
7 fiscal year shall be transferred to the Department of Administration for
8 removal of man-made barriers to disabled travelers at State-funded
9 travel attractions. Guidelines for the removal of man-made barriers
10 shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Human
11 Resources."

12 Sec. 4. G.S. 105-330.1 reads as rewritten:

13 **"§ 105-330.1. Classification of motor vehicles.**

14 All motor vehicles, except (i) motor vehicles exempt from registration pursuant to
15 G.S. 20-51, (ii) manufactured homes, mobile classrooms, and mobile offices, (iii)
16 semitrailers or trailers registered on a multiyear ~~basis under G.S. 20-88(e),~~ basis, and (iv)
17 motor vehicles owned by a public service company or leased by a public service
18 company and included in the company's system property under G.S. 105-335, are
19 hereby designated a special class of property under authority of Article V, Sec. 2(2) of
20 the North Carolina Constitution. Classified motor vehicles shall be listed and assessed
21 as provided in this Article and taxes on classified motor vehicles shall be collected as
22 provided in this Article."

23 Sec. 5. G.S. 20-81.12 reads as rewritten:

24 **"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia plates, ~~high school insignia plates, and historical~~**
25 **attraction plates. ~~plates, special olympics plates, and State attraction~~**
26 **plates.**

27 (a) Collegiate Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
28 applications for a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a
29 collegiate license plate may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate
30 must be approved by both the Division and the alumni or alumnae association of the
31 appropriate college or university. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the
32 Collegiate and ~~Historical State~~ Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of in-State
33 collegiate insignia plates to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
34 for in-State, public colleges and universities and to the respective board of trustees for
35 in-State, private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate
36 plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement.

37 (b) Historical Attraction Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
38 applications for an historical attraction plate representing a publicly owned or nonprofit
39 historical attraction located in North Carolina and listed below before the plate may be
40 developed. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and
41 ~~Historical State~~ Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of historical attraction
42 plates to the organizations named below in proportion to the number of historical
43 attraction plates sold representing that organization:

- 1 (1) Historical Attraction Within Historic District. – The revenue derived
2 from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the appropriate
3 Historic Preservation Commission, or entity designated as the Historic
4 Preservation Commission, and used to maintain property in the historic
5 district in which the attraction is located. As used in this subdivision,
6 the term 'historic district' means a district created under G.S. 160A-
7 400.4.
- 8 (2) Nonprofit Historical Attraction. – The revenue derived from the
9 special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the nonprofit corporation
10 that is responsible for maintaining the attraction for which the plate is
11 issued and used to develop and operate the attraction.
- 12 (3) State Historic Site. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall
13 be transferred quarterly to the Department of Cultural Resources and
14 used to develop and operate the site for which the plate is issued. As
15 used in this subdivision, the term 'State historic site' has the same
16 meaning as in G.S. 121-2(11).

17 (c) Special Olympics Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
18 applications for a special olympics plate before the plate may be developed. The
19 Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and State Attraction Plate
20 Account derived from the sale of special olympics plates to the North Carolina Special
21 Olympics, Inc., to be used to train volunteers to assist in the statewide games and to
22 help pay the costs of the statewide games.

23 (d) State Attractions Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
24 applications for a State attractions plate before the plate may be developed. The
25 Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and State Attraction Plate
26 Account derived from the sale of State attractions plates to the organizations named
27 below in proportion to the number of State attractions plates sold representing that
28 organization:

- 29 (1) The North Carolina Arboretum. – The revenue derived from the
30 special plate shall be transferred quarterly to The North Carolina
31 Arboretum Society and used to help the Society obtain grants for the
32 North Carolina Arboretum and for capital improvements to the North
33 Carolina Arboretum.
- 34 (2) The North Carolina Zoological Society. – The revenue derived from
35 the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to The North Carolina
36 Zoological Society, Incorporated, to be used for educational programs
37 and conservation programs at the North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro and
38 for operating expenses of the North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro.

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

- 1 ~~(d) through (g) Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c.~~
2 ~~1042, s. 3, effective January 1, 1993."~~
3 Sec. 6. This act is effective upon ratification.