

**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**

Short Title: Various Special Registration Plates. (Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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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, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE  
10 DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE THE FOLLOWING NEW  
11 SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES: ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES, BE  
12 ACTIVE NC, BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY FOUNDATION, BREAST CANCER  
13 AWARENESS, BUFFALO SOLDIERS, CELEBRATE ADOPTION, CRYSTAL  
14 COAST ARTIFICIAL REEF ASSOCIATION, DELTA SIGMA THETA  
15 SORORITY, FRIENDS OF THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL, MOTHERS AGAINST  
16 DRUNK DRIVING, POW/MIA, RED HAT SOCIETY, RETIRED LAW  
17 ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, AND ZETA PHI BETA  
18 SORORITY.  
19

20 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

22 "(b) Every license plate shall have displayed upon it the registration number  
23 assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued, the name of the State of North Carolina,  
24 which may be abbreviated, and the year number for which it is issued or the date of  
25 expiration. A plate issued for a commercial vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.2(1), and  
26 weighing 26,001 pounds or more, must bear the word "commercial," unless the plate is  
27 a special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4 or the commercial vehicle is a

1 trailer or is licensed for 6,000 pounds or less. The plate issued for vehicles licensed for  
2 7,000 pounds through 26,000 pounds must bear the word "weighted".

3 A-Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a registration plate issued by the  
4 Division for a private passenger vehicle or for a private hauler vehicle licensed for  
5 6,000 pounds or less, other than a Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
6 special registration plate or a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation special registration plate  
7 less shall be a "First in Flight" plate. A "First in Flight" plate shall have the words "First  
8 in Flight" printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals. The  
9 background of the plate shall depict the Wright Brothers biplane flying over Kitty Hawk  
10 Beach, with the plane flying slightly upward and to the right. The following special  
11 registration plates do not have to be a "First in Flight" plate. The design of the plates  
12 that are not "First in Flight" plates must be approved by the Division and the State  
13 Highway Patrol for clarity and ease of identification.

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

15 (2) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

16 (3) Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.

17 (4) Friends of the Appalachian Trail".

18 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-79.4(b), as amended by S.L. 2003-10, 2003-11, and  
19 2003-68, is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to read:

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

22 ...

23 (1e) Alternative Fuel Vehicles. – Issuable to the registered owner of an  
24 alternative fuel vehicle. The plate shall bear the words "Alternative  
25 Fuel Vehicle". The Division must receive 300 or more applications for  
26 the plate before it may be developed.

27 ...

28 (3e) Be Active NC. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in  
29 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the phrase "Be  
30 Active NC" and a representation of the "Be Active NC" logo.

31 ...

32 (3h) Breast Cancer Awareness. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
33 motor vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase "Early Detection Saves  
34 Lives" and a representation of a pink ribbon. The Division must  
35 receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be  
36 developed.

37 ...

38 (3d)(3j) Bronze Star Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Bronze Star. The  
39 plate shall bear the emblem of the Bronze Star and the words "Bronze  
40 Star".

41 ...

42 (3m) Buffalo Soldiers. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle  
43 in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the words "The  
44 Buffalo Soldiers" and the logo of the 9th & 10th (Horse) Cavalry

- 1                   Association of the Buffalo Soldiers Greater North Carolina Chapter  
2                   (BSGNCC).
- 3                   ...
- 4                   (3p) Celebrate Adoption. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
5                   vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase "Celebrate Adoption" and a  
6                   representation of a white ribbon with a red heart on it. The Division  
7                   must receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be  
8                   developed.
- 9                   ...
- 10                  (11d) Crystal Coast. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in  
11                  accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the words "Crystal  
12                  Coast Artificial Reef Association" and a representation of a SCUBA  
13                  diving flag.
- 14                  ...
- 15                  (11g) Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
16                  motor vehicle. The plate shall bear the sorority's name and symbol.  
17                  The Division must receive 300 or more applications for the plate  
18                  before it may be developed.
- 19                  ...
- 20                  (27e) Mothers Against Drunk Driving. – Issuable to the registered owner of  
21                  a motor vehicle. The plate shall bear the letters "M.A.D.D." and the  
22                  words "Mothers Against Drunk Driving". The Division must receive  
23                  300 or more applications for the plate before it may be developed.
- 24                  ...
- 25                  (32c) POW/MIA. – Issuable to the owner of a motor vehicle. The plate shall  
26                  bear the official POW/MIA logo. The Division must receive 300 or  
27                  more applications for the plate before it may be developed.
- 28                  ...
- 29                  (36)(35d) Register of Deeds. – Issuable to a register of deeds. The plate shall  
30                  bear the words "Register of Deeds" and the letter "R" followed by a  
31                  number representing the county of the register of deeds. The number  
32                  of a county shall be the order of the county in an alphabetical list of  
33                  counties that assigns number one to the first county in the list.
- 34                  ...
- 35                  (36) Red Hat Society. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle.  
36                  The plate shall bear a representation of The Red Hat Society. The  
37                  Division shall not use the name and logo of The Red Hat Society, Inc.,  
38                  on the plate unless The Red Hat Society, Inc., licenses, without charge,  
39                  the State to use the name and logo on the plate. The Division must  
40                  receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be  
41                  developed.
- 42                  ...
- 43                  (36b) Retired Law Enforcement Officers. – The plate authorized by this  
44                  subdivision shall bear the phrase "Retired Law Enforcement Officer"

1 and a representation of a law enforcement badge. The Division must  
2 receive 300 or more applications for the plate before it may be  
3 developed. The plate is issuable to one of the following:

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

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

11 ...

12 ~~(36b)~~(36e) Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. – Issuable to the  
13 registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12.  
14 The plate shall bear the phrase "Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation" and  
15 a logo approved by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Inc.

16 ...

17 ~~(36e)~~(36h) Save the Sea Turtles. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
18 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear  
19 the phrase "Save the Sea Turtles" and a representation related to sea  
20 turtles.

21 ...

22 (45d) Surveyor Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in  
23 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the words  
24 "Following In Their Footsteps" and shall bear a picture of a transit.

25 ...

26 ~~(45b)~~(45f) Sweet Potato. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
27 vehicle. The plate may bear a phrase and picture representing the  
28 State's official vegetable, the sweet potato. The Division may not issue  
29 the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300  
30 applications for the plate.

31 ...

32 ~~(45e)~~(45i) Tobacco Heritage. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
33 motor vehicle. The plate shall bear a picture of a tobacco leaf and  
34 plow. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this  
35 subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.

36 ...

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

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

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, including

1 additional Congressional Medal of Honor, 100% Disabled Veteran, and Ex-Prisoner of  
 2 War plates, are subject to the regular motor vehicle registration fee in G.S. 20-87 or  
 3 G.S. 20-88 plus an additional fee in the following amount:

	<u>Additional Fee Amount</u>
4 <u>Special Plate</u>	
5 <u>Crystal Coast</u>	\$40.00
6 Historical Attraction	<del>\$30.00</del> \$40.00
7 State Attraction	<del>\$30.00</del> \$40.00
8 <u>Buffalo Soldiers</u>	\$35.00
9 Collegiate Insignia	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
10 Goodness Grows	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
11 Kids First	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
12 Olympic Games	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
13 NC Agribusiness	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
14 NC Coastal Federation	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
15 Nurses	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
16 <b>(Effective until June 30, 2006)</b>	
17 <u>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</u>	\$35.00
18 Special Olympics	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
19 <u>Surveyor Plate</u>	\$35.00
20 The V Foundation for Cancer Research Division	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
21 University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina	<del>\$25.00</del> \$35.00
22 Animal Lovers	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
23 Audubon North Carolina	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
24 <u>Be Active NC</u>	\$30.00
25 Ducks Unlimited	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
26 <b>(Effective until June 30, 2006)</b>	
27 Harley Owners' Group	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
28 First in Forestry	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
29 Litter Prevention	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
30 March of Dimes	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
31 Omega Psi Phi Fraternity	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
32 <del>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</del>	<del>\$25.00</del>
33 Save the Sea Turtles	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
34 Scenic Rivers	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
35 School Technology	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
36 Soil and Water Conservation	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
37 Special Forces Association	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
38 Support Public Schools	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
39 Wildlife Resources	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
40 <u>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority</u>	\$30.00
41 Personalized	<del>\$20.00</del> \$30.00
42 Active Member of the National Guard	None
43 100% Disabled Veteran	None
44 Ex-Prisoner of War	None

1	Legion of Valor	None
2	Purple Heart Recipient	None
3	Silver Star Recipient	None
4	All Other Special Plates	<del>\$10.00</del> -\$20.00."

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

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

14	<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>SRPA</u>	<u>CCAPA</u>	<u>NHTF</u>	<u>PRTF</u>
15	Animal Lovers	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
16	Audubon North Carolina	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
17	<u>Be Active NC</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
18	<u>Buffalo Soldiers</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
19	<u>Crystal Coast</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
20	Ducks Unlimited	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
21	First in Forestry	\$10	0	<del>\$10</del> \$15	<del>\$5</del>
22	Goodness Grows	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
23	<b>(Effective until June 30, 2006)</b>				
24	Harley Owners' Group	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
25	Historical Attraction	\$10	\$20	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
26	In-State Collegiate Insignia	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
27	Kids First	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
28	Litter Prevention	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
29	March of Dimes	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
30	NC Agribusiness	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
31	NC Coastal Federation	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
32	Nurses	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
33	Olympic Games	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
34	Omega Psi Phi Fraternity	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
35	Out-of-state Collegiate Insignia	\$10	0	<del>\$15</del> \$20	<del>\$5</del>
36	Personalized	\$10	0	<del>\$10</del> \$15	<del>\$5</del>
37	<b>(Effective until June 30, 2006)</b>				
38	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
39	Save the Sea Turtles	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
40	Scenic Rivers	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
41	School Technology	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
42	Soil and Water Conservation	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
43	Special Forces Association	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>
44	Special Olympics	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	<del>\$5</del>

1	State Attraction	\$10	\$20	<del>0</del> \$5	\$5
2	Support Public Schools	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	\$5
3	<u>Surveyor Plate</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
4	The V Foundation for				
5	Cancer Research	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	\$5
6	University Health Systems				
7	of Eastern Carolina	\$10	\$15	<del>0</del> \$5	\$5
8	Wildlife Resources	\$10	\$10	<del>0</del> \$5	\$5
9	<u>Zeta Phi Beta Sorority</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>\$5</u>
10	All other Special Plates	\$10	0	<del>0</del> \$5	\$5."

**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.

~~(1a)~~(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.

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

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

~~(1b)~~(1d) The North Carolina Maritime Museum. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to Friends of the Museum, North Carolina Maritime Museum, Inc., to be used for

1 educational programs and conservation programs and for operating  
2 expenses of the North Carolina Maritime Museum.

- 3 (2) The North Carolina Zoological Society. – The revenue derived from  
4 the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to The North Carolina  
5 Zoological Society, Incorporated, to be used for educational programs  
6 and conservation programs at the North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro and  
7 for operating expenses of the North Carolina Zoo at Asheboro."

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

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

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

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

26 (b29) Surveyor Plate. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for a  
27 Surveyor plate before the plate may be developed. The Division shall transfer quarterly  
28 the money in the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale  
29 of Surveyor plates to The North Carolina Society of Surveyors Education Foundation,  
30 Inc., for public educational programs.

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

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

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