

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 758  
Committee Substitute Reconsidered/Withdrawn 5/10/89  
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Short Title: Judicial and Special License Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 4, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL LICENSE  
PLATES ISSUABLE ON REQUEST TO THE JUDICIARY AND TO PROVIDE  
SEMIPERMANENT REGISTRATION PLATES FOR MEMBERS OF  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND RESCUE SQUADS AND  
AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-81(3) reads as rewritten:

"(3) Judicial. – Official plates issued to the judiciary shall be issued as follows:

- a. Appellate division. – Official plates that shall be issued upon request to the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court of North Carolina and the Chief Judge and Associate Judges of North Carolina Court of Appeals shall bear the letter 'J' followed by numerical designation from 1 through 19. The Chief Justice upon request shall be issued the plate bearing number 1 and the remaining plates shall first be issued upon request to the Associate Justices on the basis of seniority. The Chief Judge shall be issued upon request the next such judicial plate and the remaining plates shall be issued upon request to the Associate Judges on the basis of seniority. Retired

1 members of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals shall  
2 receive an official plate upon request similar in every respect to  
3 the plate issued to the regular justices and judges bearing the  
4 numerical designation of his or her position of seniority at the  
5 time of retirement except that the numerical designation shall be  
6 followed with the letter 'X'. Official plate J-20 may be issued  
7 upon request to the Director of the Administrative Office of the  
8 Courts.

- 9 b. Superior court. – Official plates shall be issued to the various  
10 senior resident superior court judges upon request and shall bear  
11 the letter 'J' followed by a numerical designation which for a  
12 district as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) shall be equal to the sum  
13 of the numerical designation of their respective judicial districts  
14 plus 20. Where there is more than one regular resident superior  
15 court judge for such a district, official plates shall upon request  
16 be issued to other resident judges of the district similar to the  
17 official plate to be issued upon request to the senior resident  
18 superior court judge of the district except the numerical  
19 designation on each subsequent plate shall be followed by a  
20 hyphen and a letter of the alphabet beginning with the letter 'A',  
21 which shall be indicative of the recipient's position as to  
22 seniority. The numerical designation for the senior resident  
23 superior court judge for a set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-  
24 41.1(a) shall be equal to the sum of 20 plus the numerical  
25 designation which the districts in the set have in common and  
26 shall be followed by no letter, and the numerical designation for  
27 each other regular resident superior court judge of the set of  
28 districts shall have the same numerical designation as that of the  
29 senior resident superior court judge and shall be followed by a  
30 hyphen and a letter of the alphabet beginning with the letter 'A'  
31 which shall indicate the recipient's position as to seniority  
32 among all of the regular resident superior court judges of the set  
33 of districts and shall not necessarily correspond with the letter  
34 designation of the superior court district established under G.S.  
35 7A-41 for which he is a resident judge, provided that in the set  
36 of districts 7B and 7C, the senior resident superior court judge  
37 for that set shall be issued on request an official plate bearing  
38 the designation ~~27BC-27C~~ following the letter 'J', and all other  
39 resident superior court judges of the set shall be issued on  
40 request an official plate bearing that designation followed by a  
41 ~~hyphen and a letter of the alphabet beginning with the letter 'A'~~  
42 ~~indicating that judge's position as to seniority among all the regular~~  
43 ~~resident superior court judges of that set~~ the letter 'B'. Special  
44 judges and emergency judges of the superior court shall be

1 issued an official plate bearing the letter 'J' with a numerical  
2 designation as designated by the Administrative Office of the  
3 Courts with the approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme  
4 Court of North Carolina. Retired judges shall be issued a similar  
5 plate except that the numerical designation shall be followed by  
6 the letter 'X'.

7 c. North Carolina district court judges. – An official plate shall be  
8 issued upon request to each chief judge of the district courts of  
9 North Carolina which shall bear the letter 'J' followed by a  
10 numerical designation equal to the sum of the numerical  
11 designation of their respective district court districts plus 100  
12 and all other judges of the district courts serving within the  
13 same district court district shall, upon request, be issued an  
14 official plate bearing the same letter and numerical designation  
15 as appears on the official plate issued to the chief district judge  
16 of the district court district except that on each subsequent  
17 official plate issued within a district, the numerical designation  
18 shall be followed by a letter of the alphabet beginning with the  
19 letter 'A' which shall be indicative of the recipient's position as  
20 to seniority. Retired judges shall be issued a similar plate except  
21 that the numerical designation shall be followed by the letter  
22 'X'.

23 c1. Clerks of Superior Court. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
24 request to the various clerks of superior court which plate shall  
25 bear the words 'Clerk Superior Court', followed by the  
26 numerical designation of their respective counties in  
27 alphabetical order, beginning with 100 and preceded by the  
28 letter 'C'.

29 d. District attorneys. – Official plates shall be issued upon request  
30 to the various district attorneys which plates shall bear the  
31 letters 'DA', followed by a numerical designation indicative of  
32 their prosecutorial district.

33 e. United States judges. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
34 request to Justices of the United States Supreme Court, Judges  
35 of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals and to the District  
36 Judges of the United States District Courts residing in North  
37 Carolina and shall bear the words 'U.S. Judge', followed by a  
38 numerical designation beginning with the number '1' which  
39 shall be indicative of the judge's seniority position as to the date  
40 he began continuous service as a United States Judge as  
41 designated by the Secretary of State. Retired judges and judges  
42 who have taken senior status shall be issued similar plates  
43 except that the numerical designation shall be based upon the

1 date of such retirement or assumption of senior status and shall  
2 follow the numerical designation of active justices and judges.

3 f. United States attorneys. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
4 request to the United States Attorneys, which plates shall bear  
5 the letters, 'U.S. Attorney', followed by a numerical designation  
6 indicative of their district, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2  
7 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.

8 g. United States marshals. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
9 request to the United States Marshals, which plates shall bear  
10 the letters, 'U.S. Marshal', followed by a numerical designation  
11 indicative of their district, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2  
12 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District."

13 Sec. 2. G.S. 20-81.7 reads as rewritten:

14 "(a) Every owner of a private passenger motor vehicle or pickup truck not  
15 exceeding a gross weight of 4,000 pounds, who is an active, regular, or volunteer  
16 member of a fire department or rescue squad, upon payment of registration and  
17 licensing fees for such vehicle as required by law and an additional initial fee of ten  
18 dollars (\$10.00), shall be issued license plates of the same form and character as other  
19 license plates now or hereinafter authorized by law to be issued upon such vehicles  
20 except that such license plates shall in addition bear on the face thereof the following  
21 words: either 'fireman'; 'rescue squad' or 'fireman-rescue squad.' Special registration  
22 plates issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for five years and shall be renewed  
23 through the use of annual renewal stickers in the same manner as regular registration  
24 plates are renewed. When the holder of a special registration plate issued pursuant to  
25 this section becomes ineligible for it he shall exchange the plate for a regular plate  
26 within 30 days.

27 (b) Application for special registration plates pursuant to this section shall be made on  
28 forms provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles and shall contain proof satisfactory  
29 to the Division that the applicant is an active regular or volunteer member of a fire  
30 department or rescue squad. ~~Applications must be filed prior to 60 days before the day when~~  
31 ~~regular registration plates for the year are made available to motor vehicle owners.~~ Special  
32 registration plates issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for five years with no  
33 additional fee for the specialized plate and the plates shall be renewed annually, as  
34 provided in subsection (a), in the month of June beginning in the 1990 registration year.

35 (c) Repealed by Session Laws 1981 (Regular Session, 1982), c. 1258, s. 13."

36 Sec. 3. G.S. 20-81.1(b) reads as rewritten:

37 "(b) Application for special registration plates shall be made on forms which shall  
38 be provided by the Division of Motor Vehicles and shall contain proof satisfactory to  
39 the Division that the applicant holds an unrevoked and unexpired official amateur radio  
40 license and shall state the call letters which have been assigned to the applicant. The  
41 special registration plates shall provide for call letters with numerical or letter suffixes  
42 so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call letters on each.  
43 ~~Applications must be filed prior to 60 days before the day when regular registration plates for~~  
44 ~~the year are made available to motor vehicle owners.~~ Special registration plates issued

1 pursuant to this section shall be valid for five years with no additional fee for the  
2 specialized plate and the plates shall be renewed annually, as provided in subsection (c),  
3 in the month of June beginning in the 1990 registration year."

4           Sec. 4. Section 1 of this act is effective upon ratification and shall apply to  
5 each effected person on the date of the first subsequent regular renewal of his existing  
6 plate, or upon the date of the subsequent regular issuance of his first plate. The  
7 remainder of this act shall become effective October 1, 1989.