

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 459*

Short Title: HBCU Innovation Fund. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Farmer-Butterfield, Pierce, Michaux, and Richardson (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Education - Universities, if favorable, Finance.

April 2, 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:

...

(j) 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:

"(j) 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



1 sale of HBCU Innovation plates to the North Carolina Education Endowment Fund established
 2 pursuant to G.S. 115C-472.16."

3 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-79.7 reads as rewritten:

4 "**§ 20-79.7. Fees for special registration plates and distribution of the fees.**

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

Special Plate	Additional Fee Amount
9 ...	
10 Greensboro Symphony Guild	\$30.00
11 <u>HBCU Innovation</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
12 Historical Attraction	\$30.00

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

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

25"
 26 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-63(b1) reads as rewritten:

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

33 ...
 34 (44) I Support Teachers.

35 (45) HBCU Innovation."

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

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

41 "**§ 105-269.8. Contribution of income tax refund or payment to the Historically Black**
 42 **Colleges and Universities Innovation Endowment Fund.**

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

1 for credit to the North Carolina Historically Black Colleges and Universities Innovation
2 Endowment Fund."

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