

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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HOUSE BILL 631

Short Title: Wildlife License Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Richardson; Alexander, Baddour, Bowman, D. Brown, DeVane, Gottovi, Hill, James, Kinney, Lemmond, McAllister, C. Preston, Redwine, Spears, Warner, P. Wilson, and Wright.

Referred to: Transportation.

March 29, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO ISSUE
3 REGISTRATION PLATES DEPICTING WILDLIFE SPECIES IN NORTH
4 CAROLINA, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE INCOME
5 FROM THOSE PLATES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. G.S. 20-79.4(b) reads as rewritten:

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

10 (1) Administrative Officer of the Courts. – Issuable to the Director of the
11 Administrative Office of the Courts. The plate shall bear the phrase 'J-
12 20'.

13 (2) Amateur Radio Operator. – Issuable to an amateur radio operator who
14 holds an unexpired and unrevoked amateur radio license issued by the
15 Federal Communications Commission and who asserts to the Division
16 that a portable transceiver is carried in the vehicle. The plate shall bear
17 the phrase 'Amateur Radio.' The plate shall bear the operator's official
18 amateur radio call letters, or call letters with numerical or letter
19 suffixes so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call
20 letters on each.

21 (3) Civil Air Patrol Member. – Issuable to an active member of the North
22 Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The plate shall bear the phrase

- 1 'Civil Air Patrol'. A plate issued to an officer member shall begin with
2 the number '201' and the number shall reflect the seniority of the
3 member; a plate issued to an enlisted member, a senior member, or a
4 cadet member shall begin with the number '501'.
- 5 (4) Class D Citizen's Radio Station Operator. – Issuable to a Class D
6 citizen's radio station operator licensed by the Federal
7 Communications Commission. The plate shall bear the operator's
8 official Class D citizen's radio station call letters.
- 9 (5) Clerk of Superior Court. – Issuable to a clerk of superior court. The
10 plate shall bear the phrase 'Clerk Superior Court' and the letter 'C'
11 followed by a number that indicates the county the clerk serves.
- 12 (6) Coast Guard Auxiliary Member. – Issuable to an active member of the
13 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The plate shall bear the phrase
14 'Coast Guard Auxiliary'.
- 15 (6a) Collegiate Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
16 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase
17 or an insignia representing a public or private college or university.
- 18 (7) Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of
19 the Congressional Medal of Honor.
- 20 (8) Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the
21 United States who suffered a 100% service-connected disability.
- 22 (9) District Attorney. – Issuable to a North Carolina or United States
23 District Attorney. The plate issuable to a North Carolina district
24 attorney shall bear the letters 'DA' followed by a number that
25 represents the prosecutorial district the district attorney serves. The
26 plate for a United States attorney shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Attorney'
27 followed by a number that represents the district the attorney serves,
28 with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3
29 being the Western District.
- 30 (10) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active
31 regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue
32 squad, or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall bear
33 the words 'Firefighter', 'Rescue Squad', or 'Firefighter-Rescue Squad'.
- 34 (11) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at least
35 35 years old measured from the date of manufacture. The plate for a
36 vehicle that is 35 to 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Antique'. The
37 plate for a vehicle that is at least 50 years old shall bear the phrase
38 'Horseless Carriage'.
- 39 (11a) Historical Attraction Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
40 motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may
41 bear a phrase or an insignia representing a publicly owned or
42 nonprofit historical attraction located in North Carolina.
- 43 (12) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary Consulor
44 [Consular] Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State

- 1 Department, the plate shall bear the words 'Honorary Consular
2 [Consular] Corps' and a distinguishing number based on the order
3 of issuance.
- 4 (13) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in
5 accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.
- 6 (14) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General
7 Assembly. The plate shall bear the words 'Senate' or 'State House'
8 followed by the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
- 9 (15) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall bear
10 the phrase 'U.S. Marshal' followed by a number that represents the
11 district the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2
12 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- 13 (16) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component
14 of the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the
15 name and insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates
16 shall be numbered sequentially for members of a component with
17 the numbers 1 through 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to
18 rank.
- 19 (16a) Military Retiree. – Issuable to an individual who has retired from
20 the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the
21 phrase 'U.S. Armed Forces Retired' and the name of the branch of
22 service from which the individual retired.
- 23 (17) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired
24 member of the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall bear
25 the phrase 'National Guard'. A plate issued to an active member
26 shall bear a number that reflects the seniority of the member; a
27 plate issued to a commissioned officer shall begin with the number
28 '1'; a plate issued to a noncommissioned officer with a rank of E7,
29 E8, or E9 shall begin with the number '1601'; a plate issued to an
30 enlisted member with a rank of E6 or below shall begin with the
31 number '3001'. The plate issued to a retired or separated member
32 shall indicate the member's retired status.
- 33 (18) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed
34 forces of the United States who suffered a service connected
35 disability of less than 100%.
- 36 (19) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces
37 of the United States who was present at and survived the attack on
38 Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase
39 'Pearl Harbor Survivor' and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor
40 Survivors' 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
43 the owner. The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter

- 1 combination that is offensive to good taste and decency. The
 2 Division may not issue a plate that duplicates another plate.
- 3 (20a) Personalized Wildlife Resources. – Issuable to the registered owner
 4 of a motor vehicle. The plate will bear the letters or letters and
 5 numbers requested by the owner and a picture representing a native
 6 wildlife species occurring in North Carolina. The Division may
 7 refuse to issue a plate with a letter combination that is offensive to
 8 good taste and decency. The Division may not issue a plate that
 9 duplicates another plate.
- 10 (21) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to a member or veteran member of the
 11 armed forces of the United States who has been captured and held
 12 prisoner by forces hostile to the United States while serving in the
 13 armed forces.
- 14 (22) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart
 15 award. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Purple Heart Veteran,
 16 Combat Wounded' and the letters 'PH'.
- 17 (23) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed
 18 members of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.
- 19 (24) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a
 20 modernized private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to
 21 the year 1949 or designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior
 22 to the year 1949. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Street Rod'.
- 23 (25) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the
 24 Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall bear
 25 the letters 'DOT' followed by a number from 1 to 85, as designated
 26 by the Governor.
- 27 (26) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative
 28 for North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. House' and
 29 shall be issued on the basis of Congressional district numbers.
- 30 (27) U.S. Senator. – Issuable to a United States Senator for North
 31 Carolina. The plates shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Senate' and shall be
 32 issued on the basis of seniority represented by the numbers 1 and 2.
- 33 (28) Wildlife Resources. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
 34 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a
 35 picture representing a native wildlife species occurring in North
 36 Carolina."

37 Sec. 2. G.S. 20-79.7 reads as rewritten:

38 **"§ 20-79.7. Fees for Special Registration Plates and distribution of the fees.**

39 (a) Fees. – Upon request, the Division shall provide and issue free of charge
 40 one registration plate to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a 100%
 41 disabled veteran, and an ex-prisoner of war. All other special registration plates are
 42 subject to the regular motor vehicle registration fee in G.S. 20-87 or G.S. 20-88 plus an
 43 additional fee in the following amount:

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>Additional Fee Amount</u>
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1	Historical Attraction	\$30.00	
2	Collegiate Insignia	\$25.00	
3	Personalized		\$20.00
4	<u>Personalized Wildlife Resources</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>	
5	<u>Wildlife Resources</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>	
6	All other Special Plates	\$10.00	
7	Active Member of the National Guard	None	

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

16	Special Plate	SRPA	CHAPA	<u>WRPA</u>	RNHTF		
17	Historical Attraction			\$10	\$20	<u>0</u>	0
18	In-State Collegiate Insignia			\$10	\$15	<u>0</u>	0
19	Out-of-state Collegiate Insignia			\$10	0	<u>0</u>	\$15
20	Personalized			\$10	0	<u>0</u>	\$10
21	<u>Personalized Wildlife Resources</u>			<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>
22	<u>Wildlife Resources</u>			<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>
23	All other Special Plates			\$10	0	<u>0</u>	0

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

- 29 (1) Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of
 30 Commerce to aid in financing out-of-state print and other media
 31 advertising under the program for the promotion of travel and
 32 industrial development in this State.
- 33 (2) Fifty percent (50%) to the Department of Transportation to be used
 34 solely for the purpose of beautification of highways other than those
 35 designated as interstate. These funds shall be administered by the
 36 Department of Transportation for beautification purposes not
 37 inconsistent with good landscaping and engineering principles.
- 38 (3) Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of Human
 39 Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled persons in this
 40 State. These funds shall be used to collect and update site information
 41 on travel attractions designated by the Department of Commerce in its
 42 publications, to provide technical assistance to travel attractions
 43 concerning accommodation of disabled tourists, and to develop, print,
 44 and promote the publication ACCESS NORTH CAROLINA as

1 provided in G.S. 168-2. Any funds allocated for these purposes that are
2 neither spent nor obligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be
3 transferred to the Department of Administration for removal of man-
4 made barriers to disabled travelers at State-funded travel attractions.
5 Guidelines for the removal of man-made barriers shall be developed in
6 consultation with the Department of Human Resources."

7 Sec. 3. G.S. 20-81.12 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia plates, high school insignia plates, and historical**
9 **attraction plates, plates, and wildlife resources plates.**

10 (a) Collegiate Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
11 applications for a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a
12 collegiate license plate may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate
13 must be approved by both the Division and the alumni or alumnae association of the
14 appropriate college or university. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the
15 Collegiate and Historical Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of in-State
16 collegiate insignia plates to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina
17 for in-State, public colleges and universities and to the respective board of trustees for
18 in-State, private colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate
19 plates sold representing that institution for use for academic enhancement.

20 (b) Historical Attraction Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
21 applications for an historical attraction plate representing a publicly owned or nonprofit
22 historical attraction located in North Carolina and listed below before the plate may be
23 developed. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate and
24 Historical Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of historical attraction plates
25 to the organizations named below in proportion to the number of historical attraction
26 plates sold representing that organization:

27 (1) Historical Attraction Within Historic District. – The revenue derived
28 from the special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the appropriate
29 Historic Preservation Commission, or entity designated as the Historic
30 Preservation Commission, and used to maintain property in the historic
31 district in which the attraction is located. As used in this subdivision,
32 the term 'historic district' means a district created under G.S. 160A-
33 400.4.

34 (2) Nonprofit Historical Attraction. – The revenue derived from the
35 special plate shall be transferred quarterly to the nonprofit corporation
36 that is responsible for maintaining the attraction for which the plate is
37 issued and used to develop and operate the attraction.

38 (3) State Historic Site. – The revenue derived from the special plate shall
39 be transferred quarterly to the Department of Cultural Resources and
40 used to develop and operate the site for which the plate is issued. As
41 used in this subdivision, the term 'State historic site' has the same
42 meaning as in G.S. 121-2(11).

43 (b1) Wildlife Resources Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more
44 applications for a wildlife resources license plate for a native wildlife species before a

1 wildlife resources license plate or personalized wildlife resources plate may be
2 developed. The color, design, and material for the plate shall be approved by both the
3 Division and the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Division shall transfer quarterly
4 the money in the Wildlife Resources Plate Account derived from the sale of wildlife
5 resources plates and personalized wildlife resources plates to the Nongame and
6 Endangered Wildlife Fund administered by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources
7 Commission in proportion to the number of wildlife resources plates sold and in
8 proportion to the number of personalized wildlife resources plates sold, and the Division
9 shall transfer quarterly the money in the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund
10 Account derived from the sale of personalized wildlife resources plates to the
11 Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Fund in proportion to the number of personalized
12 wildlife resources plates sold.

13 (c) General. – An application for a special license plate named in this section
14 may be made at any time during the year. If the application is made to replace an
15 existing current valid plate, the special plate must be issued with the appropriate decals
16 attached. No refund shall be made to the applicant for any unused portion remaining on
17 the original plate. The request for a special license plate named in this section may be
18 combined with a request that the plate be a personalized license plate.

19 (d) through (g) Repealed by Session Laws 1991 (Regular Session, 1992), c.
20 1042, s. 3, effective January 1, 1993."

21 Sec. 4. This act becomes effective January 1, 1994.