

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1993 SESSION

CHAPTER 543
SENATE BILL 161

AN ACT TO ALLOW ALL TRAILERS TO OBTAIN MULTIYEAR LICENSE PLATES, TO INCREASE THE TYPES OF SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES, TO SPECIFY HOW FEES FROM THE NEW SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES ARE TO BE USED, TO MODIFY THE APPEARANCE OF THE SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 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 issued. a year. The fee is payable on or before January 1 of each year.~~ Upon the application of the owner of a ~~semitrailer, semitrailer or trailer,~~ semitrailer or trailer, the Division may issue a multiyear plate and registration card for the semitrailer or trailer for a fee of seventy-five dollars (\$75.00). A multiyear plate and registration card for a semitrailer or trailer are valid until the owner transfers the semitrailer or trailer to another person or surrenders the plate and registration card to the Division. A multiyear plate may not be transferred to another vehicle.

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

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

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

- (1) Administrative Officer of the Courts. – Issuable to the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The plate shall bear the phrase 'J-20'.
- (2) Amateur Radio Operator. – Issuable to an amateur radio operator who holds an unexpired and unrevoked amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and who asserts to the Division that a portable transceiver is carried in the vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Amateur Radio.' ~~Radio~~. The plate shall bear the operator's official amateur radio call letters, or call letters with

numerical or letter suffixes so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call letters on each.

- (2a) American Legion. – Issuable to a member or a supporter of the American Legion. The plate shall bear the words 'American Legion' and the emblem of the American Legion. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.
- (3) Civil Air Patrol Member. – Issuable to an active member of the North Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Civil Air Patrol'. A plate issued to an officer member shall begin with the number '201' and the number shall reflect the seniority of the member; a plate issued to an enlisted member, a senior member, or a cadet member shall begin with the number '501'.
- (3a) Civic Club. – Issuable to a member of a nationally recognized civic organization whose member clubs in the State are exempt from State corporate income tax under G.S. 105-130.11(a)(5). Examples of these clubs include Jaycees, Kiwanis, Optimist, Rotary, Ruritan, and Shrine. The plate shall bear a word or phrase identifying the civic club and the emblem of the civic club. The Division may not issue a civic club plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for that civic club plate.
- (4) Class D Citizen's Radio Station Operator. – Issuable to a Class D citizen's radio station operator licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. ~~operator.~~ The For an operator who has been issued Class D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal Communications Commission, the plate shall bear the operator's official Class D citizen's radio station call letters. For an operator who has not been issued Class D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal Communications Commission, the plate shall bear the phrase 'Citizen's Band Radio'.
- (5) Clerk of Superior Court. – Issuable to a clerk of superior court. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Clerk Superior Court' and the letter 'C' followed by a number that indicates the county the clerk serves.
- (6) Coast Guard Auxiliary Member. – Issuable to an active member of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Coast Guard Auxiliary'.
- (6a) Collegiate Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an insignia representing a public or private college or university.
- (7) County Commissioner. – Issuable to a county commissioner of a county in this State. The plate shall bear the words 'County Commissioner' followed first by a number representing the commissioner's county and then by a letter or number that

distinguishes plates issued to county commissioners of the same county. The number of a county shall be the order of the county in an alphabetical list of counties that assigns number one to the first county in the list and a letter or number to distinguish different cars owned by the county commissioners in that county. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate. Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient. — Issuable to a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

- (8) Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who suffered a 100% service-connected disability.
- (9) District Attorney. – Issuable to a North Carolina or United States District Attorney. The plate issuable to a North Carolina district attorney shall bear the letters 'DA' followed by a number that represents the prosecutorial district the district attorney serves. The plate for a United States attorney shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Attorney' followed by a number that represents the district the attorney serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- (10) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue squad, or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall bear the words 'Firefighter', 'Rescue Squad', or 'Firefighter-Rescue Squad'.
- (10a) Future Farmers of America. – Issuable to a member or a supporter of the National Future Farmers of America Organization. The plate shall bear the emblem of the organization and the letters 'FFA'. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.
- (11) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at least 35 years old measured from the date of manufacture. ~~The plate for a vehicle that is 35 to 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Antique'. The plate for a vehicle that is at least 50 years old shall bear the phrase 'Horseless Carriage'.~~ The plate for an historic vehicle shall bear the word 'Antique' unless the vehicle is a model year 1943 or older. The plate for a vehicle that is a model year 1943 or older shall bear the word 'Antique' or the words 'Horseless Carriage', at the option of the vehicle owner.
- (11a) Historical Attraction Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit historical attraction located in North Carolina.
- (12) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary ~~Consular~~ Consular Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State Department, the plate shall bear the words 'Honorary ~~Consular~~ Consular Corps' and a distinguishing number based on the order of issuance.

- (13) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.
- (13a) Legion of Valor. – Issuable to a recipient of one of the following military decorations: the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross. The plate shall bear the emblem and name of the recipient's decoration.
- (14) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General Assembly. The plate shall bear 'The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina' and, as appropriate, the words-word 'Senate' or 'State House' 'House' followed by the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
- (15) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Marshal' followed by a number that represents the district the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- (16) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component of the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the name and insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates shall be numbered sequentially for members of a component with the numbers 1 through 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to rank.
- (16a) Military Retiree. – Issuable to an individual who has retired from the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the ~~phrase 'U.S. Armed Forces Retired'~~ word 'Retired' and the name and insignia of the branch of service from which the individual retired. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.
- (17) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired member of the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall bear the phrase 'National Guard'. A plate issued to an active member shall bear a number that reflects the seniority of the member; a plate issued to a commissioned officer shall begin with the number '1'; a plate issued to a noncommissioned officer with a rank of E7, E8, or E9 shall begin with the number '1601'; a plate issued to an enlisted member with a rank of E6 or below shall begin with the number '3001'. The plate issued to a retired or separated member shall indicate the member's retired status.
- (18) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who suffered a service connected disability of less than 100%.
- (19) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the United States who was present at and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase 'Pearl Harbor Survivor' and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association.

- (20) Personalized. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle. The plate will bear the letters or letters and numbers requested by the owner. The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter combination that is offensive to good taste and decency. The Division may not issue a plate that duplicates another plate.
- (21) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to ~~a~~the following:
- a. A member or veteran member of the armed forces of the United States who has been captured and held prisoner by forces hostile to the United States while serving in the armed forces.
 - b. The surviving spouse of a person who had a prisoner of war plate at the time of death so long as the surviving spouse continues to renew the plate and does not remarry.
- (22) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart award. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Purple Heart Veteran, Combat Wounded' and the letters 'PH'.
- (22a) Register of Deeds. – Issuable to a register of deeds. The plate shall bear the words 'Register of Deeds' and the letter 'R' followed by a number representing the county of the register of deeds. The number of a county shall be the order of the county in an alphabetical list of counties that assigns number one to the first county in the list.
- (22b) Special Olympics. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an insignia representing the North Carolina Special Olympics.
- (23) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed members of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.
- (23a) State Attraction. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit State attraction located in North Carolina.
- (24) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a modernized private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949 or designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Street Rod'. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.
- (25) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall bear the letters 'DOT' followed by a number from 1 to 85, as designated by the Governor.
- (26) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative for North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. House' and shall be issued on the basis of Congressional district numbers.

- (27) U.S. Senator. – Issuable to a United States Senator for North Carolina. The plates shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Senate' and shall be issued on the basis of seniority represented by the numbers 1 and 2.
- (28) Veterans of Foreign Wars. – Issuable to a member or a supporter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The plate shall bear the words 'Veterans of Foreign Wars' or 'VFW' and the emblem of the VFW. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.
- (29) Wildlife Resources. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear a picture representing a native wildlife species occurring in North Carolina."

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

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

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

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>Additional Fee Amount</u>
Historical Attraction	\$30.00
<u>State Attraction</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
Collegiate Insignia	\$25.00
<u>Special Olympics</u>	<u>\$25.00</u>
<u>Wildlife Resources</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
Personalized	\$20.00
All other Special Plates	\$10.00
Active Member of the National Guard	None
<u>All Other Special Plates</u>	<u>\$10.00.</u>

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

	SRPA	CHAPA	RNHTF
Special Plate	SRPA	CCAPA	RNHTF
Historical Attraction	\$10	\$20	0
In-State Collegiate Insignia	\$10	\$15	0
Out-of-state Collegiate Insignia	\$10	0	\$15
Personalized	\$10	0	\$10
<u>Special Olympics</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$15</u>	<u>0</u>

<u>State Attraction</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>Wildlife Resources</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>
All other Special Plates	\$10	0	0 ₂

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

- (1) Thirty-three percent (33%) to the account of the Department of Economic and Community Development to aid in financing out-of-state print and other media advertising under the program for the promotion of travel and industrial development in this State.
- (2) Fifty percent (50%) to the Department of Transportation to be used solely for the purpose of beautification of highways other than those designated as interstate. These funds shall be administered by the Department of Transportation for beautification purposes not inconsistent with good landscaping and engineering principles.
- (3) Seventeen percent (17%) to the account of the Department of Human Resources to promote travel accessibility for disabled persons in this State. These funds shall be used to collect and update site information on travel attractions designated by the Department of Economic and Community Development in its publications, to provide technical assistance to travel attractions concerning accommodation of disabled tourists, and to develop, print, and promote the publication ACCESS NORTH CAROLINA as provided in G.S.168-2. Any funds allocated for these purposes that are neither spent nor obligated at the end of the fiscal year shall be transferred to the Department of Administration for removal of man-made barriers to disabled travelers at State-funded travel attractions. Guidelines for the removal of man-made barriers shall be developed in consultation with the Department of Human Resources."

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

"§ 105-330.1. Classification of motor vehicles.

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

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

"§ 20-81.12. Collegiate insignia plates, high school insignia plates, and historical attraction plates and certain other special plates.

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

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

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

(c) Special Olympics Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for a special olympics 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 special olympics plates to the North Carolina Special Olympics, Inc., to be used to train volunteers to assist in the statewide games and to help pay the costs of the statewide games.

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

(e) Wildlife Resources Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for a wildlife resources plate with a picture representing a particular native wildlife species occurring in North Carolina 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 wildlife resources plates to the Wildlife Conservation Account established by G.S. 143-247.2.

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

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

Sec. 6. G.S. 105-269.5 reads as rewritten:

"§ 105-269.5. Contribution of income tax refund to Wildlife Fund. Conservation Account.

Any taxpayer entitled to a refund of income taxes under Article 4 of this Chapter may elect to contribute all or part of the refund to the Wildlife Fund ~~for the support of wildlife management and protection programs primarily for nongame wildlife species and wildlife species which are or may hereafter be designated as endangered or threatened.~~ Conservation Account established under G.S. 143-247.2 to be used for the management, protection, and preservation of wildlife in accordance with that statute. The Secretary of Revenue shall provide appropriate language and space on the income tax form in which to make the election. The taxpayer's election ~~shall become~~ becomes irrevocable upon filing the taxpayer's income tax return for the taxable year. The Secretary of Revenue shall transmit the contributions made pursuant to this section to the State Treasurer for credit to the Wildlife Fund ~~to be used by the Wildlife Resources Commission only for the support of management and protection programs primarily for nongame wildlife and endangered and threatened species and to match federal funds which may become available for these purposes.~~ Conservation Account."

Sec. 7. G.S. 143-247.2 reads as rewritten:

"§ 143-247.2. Contributions for nongame wildlife. Wildlife Conservation Account; emblems for those who donate to the Account.

(a) Account. – The Wildlife Conservation Account is established within the Wildlife Resources Fund. Revenue is credited to the Account from donations of income tax refunds, from other donations, and from revenue derived from the sale of wildlife resources license plates. The Commission may use revenue in the Account only for the following purposes:

- (1) To manage, preserve, or protect wildlife species that are endangered, threatened, or of special concern and are included on the State's protected animal lists.
- (2) To manage, preserve, or protect nongame wildlife species that are not on the State's protected animal lists.
- (3) To administer and enforce nongame wildlife programs under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

(b) Emblems. – The Wildlife Resources Commission is hereby authorized to may issue and sell appropriate emblems by which to identify recipients thereof of the emblems as contributors to a special wildlife conservation fund which shall be held and accounted for as a separate part of the Wildlife Resources Fund and which shall be made available to the Wildlife Resources Commission for conservation, protection, enhancement, preservation and perpetuation of nongame wildlife species and those species which may be endangered or threatened with extinction. The special wildlife conservation fund will be audited by the State Auditor. the Wildlife Conservation Account. Emblems of different size, shape, type type, or design may be used to recognize contributions in different amounts, but no such emblem shall be issued amounts. The Commission may not issue an emblem for a contribution amounting in value to of less than five dollars (\$5.00)."

Sec. 8. This act is effective upon ratification. The change made by this act to G.S. 20-79.4(b)(14) applies to plates issued for legislators serving in the 1995 General Assembly and subsequent Assemblies.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 24th day of July, 1993.

Marc Basnight
President Pro Tempore of the Senate

Daniel Blue, Jr.
Speaker of the House of Representatives