

**NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE**

**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 1144 (Second Edition)

**SHORT TITLE:** "In God We Trust" Special Plates.

**SPONSOR(S):** Senator Thomas

<b>FISCAL IMPACT</b>					
	<b>Yes (X)</b>	<b>No ( )</b>	<b>No Estimate Available ( )</b>		
	<b><u>FY 2004-05</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2005-06</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2006-07</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2007-08</u></b>	<b><u>FY 2008-09</u></b>
<b>REVENUES</b>					
Highway Fund – Special Registration Plate Acct	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Acct	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>					
Highway Fund – Special Registration Plate Acct	\$4,440				
<b>PRINCIPAL DEPARTMENT(S) &amp; PROGRAM(S) AFFECTED:</b> Department of Transportation – Division of Motor Vehicles					
<b>EFFECTIVE DATE:</b> This act is effective when it becomes law.					

**BILL SUMMARY:**

The bill authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to issue a special registration plate with the logo "In God We Trust" to benefit the N.C. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund of The Minuteman Partnership for assistance to the families of North Carolina National Guardsmen activated and deployed in federal service. The bill allows this special plate to have a different background other than the "First in Flight" plate background.

**BACKGROUND:**

Neighboring states Virginia and South Carolina have approved the "In God We Trust" special license plates. South Carolina sold 89,000 of the plates in 2003 and sold 33,000 in the first four months of 2004. Louisiana has also approved the plate.

In 2003, North Carolina had 236,446 active personalized plates where the tag owner chooses his/her own letters and numbers. Last year, the state also had 95,607 specialty plates representing various organizations. The Friends of the Great Smokey Mountains National Park had the largest number of plates in 2003 with 6,345.

**ASSUMPTIONS AND METHODOLOGY:**

This fiscal analysis assumes that the applicants for the “In God We Trust” special plate already register their vehicles in the state and are paying the current \$20 registration fee, thus there is no new revenue for the Highway Fund. The analysis also assumes the issuance of the minimum 300 license plates in FY 2004-05 and renewal of those plates in the following years. There is a one-time cost of \$100 to design a new plate and an average programming cost of \$3,560 per plate to change the State Titling and Registration System (STARS). There is also a one-time cost to manufacture the special plate. The cost of a DMV recommended two-color plate is \$2.59. For 300 new plates in FY 2004-05, the manufacturing cost is \$777 (300 plate minimum X \$2.59). The total one-time cost for the new plate is \$4,437 and is paid from the Special Registration Plate Account.

In addition to the normal \$20 registration fee, each special plate is assessed a \$10 fee that is deposited into the Special Registration Plate Account. For the 300-plate minimum, this account will receive \$3,000 a year. The “In God We Trust” plate also has a \$20 fee that is deposited into the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account then transferred to the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety for the N.C. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen Assistance Fund of The Minuteman Partnership for assistance to the families of North Carolina National Guardsmen activated and deployed in federal service. For the 300 plate minimum, this fund will earn \$6,000 a year.

**SOURCES OF DATA:** Division of Motor Vehicles

**TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS:** None

**FISCAL RESEARCH DIVISION:** (919) 733-4910

**PREPARED BY:** Richard Bostic

**APPROVED BY:** James D. Johnson, Director  
Fiscal Research Division



**DATE:** June 3, 2004

**Signed Copy Located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices**