

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 758  
Transportation Committee Substitute Adopted 4/26/89

Short Title: Official License Plates.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 4, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIAL LICENSE  
PLATES ISSUABLE UPON REQUEST TO THE JUDICIARY AND TO  
PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE, UPON REQUEST AND PAYMENT OF FEE,  
OF OFFICIAL LICENSE PLATES TO FULL-TIME PERMANENT  
LEGISLATIVE STAFF.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

**"§ 20-81. Official license plates.**

(a) Official license plates issued to officials shall be subject to the same fees and transfer provisions as provided in G.S. 20-87 and 20-64 respectively and shall be issued as follows:

(1) Senate and Congressional. – Official license plates issued to the United States Senators shall bear the words 'U.S. ~~Senate,~~ Senate', be numbered 1 and 2, and shall be issued on the basis of seniority. The official plates issued to United States Congressmen shall bear the words 'U.S. House' and be numbered 1 through 11 and shall be issued on the basis of congressional districts.

(2) North Carolina General Assembly. –

a. Official license plates issued to members of the North Carolina State Senate or House of Representatives shall bear the words 'Senate' or 'State House' followed by the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.

- 1           b. Official license plates shall be issued to full-time permanent  
2           staff of the North Carolina State Senate upon request and shall  
3           bear the words 'State Senate Staff' followed by a numerical  
4           designation beginning with 1. The Senate Principal Clerk shall  
5           upon request be issued the plate bearing number 1, the Senate  
6           Sergeant-at-Arms shall upon request be issued the plate bearing  
7           number 2, and the Senate Reading Clerk shall upon request be  
8           issued the plate bearing number 3. The remaining plates shall  
9           be issued upon request to the full-time permanent staff of the  
10           Senate on the basis of seniority of service to the General  
11           Assembly.
- 12           c. Official license plates shall be issued to full-time permanent  
13           staff of the North Carolina State House of Representatives upon  
14           request and shall bear the words 'State House Staff' followed by  
15           a numerical designation beginning with 1. The House Principal  
16           Clerk shall upon request be issued the plate bearing number 1,  
17           the House Sergeant-at-Arms shall upon request be issued the  
18           plate bearing number 2, and the House Reading Clerk shall  
19           upon request be issued the plate bearing number 3. The  
20           remaining plates shall be issued upon request to the full-time  
21           permanent staff of the House of Representatives on the basis of  
22           seniority of service to the General Assembly.
- 23           d. Official license plates shall be issued upon request to full-time  
24           permanent staff of the North Carolina General Assembly  
25           employed by the Legislative Services Commission and shall  
26           bear the words 'State Legislative Staff', which may be  
27           abbreviated 'State Legis. Staff', followed by a numerical  
28           designation beginning with 1. The Division Director having the  
29           greatest seniority of service to the General Assembly shall upon  
30           request be issued the plate bearing number 1, other Division  
31           Directors shall be issued upon request plates bearing succeeding  
32           numbers in order of seniority of service to the General  
33           Assembly, and the remaining plates shall be issued upon  
34           request to the full-time permanent staff of the General  
35           Assembly upon request on the basis of seniority of service to  
36           the General Assembly.
- 37           e. For the purpose of this subdivision, seniority of service to the  
38           General Assembly shall be determined by the Legislative  
39           Services Officer as of January 1 of each year.
- 40           f. A second or subsequent vehicle registered by a member or full-  
41           time permanent staff of the General Assembly shall upon  
42           request be issued a plate bearing the appropriate designation  
43           followed by a letter of the alphabet beginning with the letter  
44           'A'.

- 1           (3) Judicial. – Official plates issued to the judiciary shall be issued as  
2 follows:
- 3           a. Appellate division. – Official plates that shall be issued upon  
4 request to the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the  
5 Supreme Court of North Carolina and the Chief Judge and  
6 Associate Judges of North Carolina Court of Appeals shall bear  
7 ~~the letter ‘J’~~ words ‘Supreme Court Justice’ or ‘Court of Appeals  
8 Judge’ followed by numerical designation from 1 through 19.  
9 The Chief Justice upon request shall be issued the plate bearing  
10 number 1 and the remaining plates shall first be issued upon  
11 request to the Associate Justices on the basis of seniority. The  
12 Chief Judge shall be issued upon request the next such judicial  
13 plate and the remaining plates shall be issued upon request to  
14 the Associate Judges on the basis of seniority. Retired members  
15 of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals shall receive an  
16 official plate upon request similar in every respect to the plate  
17 issued to the regular justices and judges bearing the numerical  
18 designation of his or her position of seniority at the time of  
19 retirement except that the numerical designation shall be  
20 followed with the letter ‘X’. Official plate J-20 may be issued  
21 upon request to the Director of the Administrative Office of the  
22 Courts.
- 23           b. Superior court. – Official plates shall be issued to the various  
24 senior resident superior court judges upon request and shall bear  
25 the letter ‘J’ followed by a numerical designation which for a  
26 district as defined in G.S. 7A-41.1(a) shall be equal to the sum  
27 of the numerical designation of their respective judicial districts  
28 plus 20. Where there is more than one regular resident superior  
29 court judge for such a district, official plates shall upon request  
30 be issued to other resident judges of the district similar to the  
31 official plate to be issued upon request to the senior resident  
32 superior court judge of the district except the numerical  
33 designation on each subsequent plate shall be followed by a  
34 hyphen and a letter of the alphabet beginning with the letter ‘A’,  
35 which shall be indicative of the recipient's position as to  
36 seniority. The numerical designation for the senior resident  
37 superior court judge for a set of districts as defined in G.S. 7A-  
38 41.1(a) shall be equal to the sum of 20 plus the numerical  
39 designation which the districts in the set have in common and  
40 shall be followed by no letter, and the numerical designation for  
41 each other regular resident superior court judge of the set of  
42 districts shall have the same numerical designation as that of the  
43 senior resident superior court judge and shall be followed by a  
44 hyphen and a letter of the alphabet beginning with the letter ‘A’

1 which shall indicate the recipient's position as to seniority  
2 among all of the regular resident superior court judges of the set  
3 of districts and shall not necessarily correspond with the letter  
4 designation of the superior court district established under G.S.  
5 7A-41 for which he is a resident judge, provided that in the set  
6 of districts 7B and 7C, the senior resident superior court judge  
7 for that set shall be issued on request an official plate bearing  
8 the designation 27BC following the letter 'J', and all other  
9 resident superior court judges of the set shall be issued on  
10 request an official plate bearing that designation followed by a  
11 hyphen and a letter of the alphabet beginning with the letter 'A'  
12 indicating that judge's position as to seniority among all the  
13 regular resident superior court judges of that set. Special judges  
14 and emergency judges of the superior court shall be issued an  
15 official plate bearing the letter 'J' with a numerical designation  
16 as designated by the Administrative Office of the Courts with  
17 the approval of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of North  
18 Carolina. Retired judges shall be issued a similar plate except  
19 that the numerical designation shall be followed by the letter  
20 'X'.

21 c. North Carolina district court judges. – An official plate shall be  
22 issued upon request to each chief judge of the district courts of  
23 North Carolina which shall bear the letter 'J' followed by a  
24 numerical designation equal to the sum of the numerical  
25 designation of their respective district court districts plus 100  
26 and all other judges of the district courts serving within the  
27 same district court district shall, upon request, be issued an  
28 official plate bearing the same letter and numerical designation  
29 as appears on the official plate issued to the chief district judge  
30 of the district court district except that on each subsequent  
31 official plate issued within a district, the numerical designation  
32 shall be followed by a letter of the alphabet beginning with the  
33 letter 'A' which shall be indicative of the recipient's position as  
34 to seniority. Retired judges shall be issued a similar plate  
35 except that the numerical designation shall be followed by the  
36 letter 'X'.

37 c1. Clerks of superior court. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
38 request to the various clerks of superior court which plate shall  
39 bear the words 'Clerk Superior Court', followed by the  
40 numerical designation of their respective counties in  
41 alphabetical order, beginning with 100 and preceded by the  
42 letter 'C'.

43 d. District attorneys. – Official plates shall be issued upon request  
44 to the various district attorneys which plates shall bear the

- 1 letters 'DA', followed by a numerical designation indicative of  
2 their prosecutorial district.
- 3 e. United States judges. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
4 request to Justices of the United States Supreme Court, Judges  
5 of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals and to the District  
6 Judges of the United States District Courts residing in North  
7 Carolina and shall bear the words 'U.S. Judge', followed by a  
8 numerical designation beginning with the number '1' which  
9 shall be indicative of the judge's seniority position as to the date  
10 he began continuous service as a United States Judge as  
11 designated by the Secretary of State. Retired judges and judges  
12 who have taken senior status shall be issued similar plates  
13 except that the numerical designation shall be based upon the  
14 date of such retirement or assumption of senior status and shall  
15 follow the numerical designation of active justices and judges.
- 16 f. United States attorneys. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
17 request to the United States Attorneys, which plates shall bear  
18 the letters, 'U.S. Attorney', followed by a numerical designation  
19 indicative of their district, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2  
20 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- 21 g. United States marshals. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
22 request to the United States Marshals, which plates shall bear  
23 the letters, 'U.S. Marshal', followed by a numerical designation  
24 indicative of their district, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2  
25 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western District.
- 26 (4) Elective and Appointive. – Official plates issued to elective and  
27 appointive members of State government shall bear number  
28 designations beginning with number 1 which shall be assigned to the  
29 Governor of North Carolina and numbers following thereafter shall be  
30 issued to in the following order:
- 31 2. Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina.
  - 32 3. Speaker of the House of Representatives.
  - 33 4. President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
  - 34 5. Secretary of State.
  - 35 6. State Auditor.
  - 36 7. State Treasurer.
  - 37 8. Superintendent of Public Instruction.
  - 38 9. Attorney General.
  - 39 10. Commissioner of Agriculture.
  - 40 11. Commissioner of Labor.
  - 41 12. Commissioner of Insurance.
  - 42 13. Speaker Pro Tempore of the House.
  - 43 14. Legislative Services Officer.
  - 44 15. Secretary of Administration.

- 1                    16.            Secretary of Natural Resources and Community  
2                                       Development.  
3                    17.            Secretary of Revenue.  
4                    18.            Secretary of Human Resources.  
5                    19.            Secretary of Commerce.  
6                    20.            Secretary of the Department of Correction.  
7                    21.            Secretary of Cultural Resources.  
8                    22.            Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety.  
9                    23-29.        To be reserved for and assigned to members of the  
10                                       Governor's staff at the direction of the Governor.  
11                    30.            State Budget Officer.  
12                    31.            State Personnel Director.  
13                    32-41.        To be reserved for and assigned to nonlegislative  
14                                       members of the Advisory Budget Commission at the  
15                                       direction of the Governor.  
16                    42.            Chairman, State Board of Education.  
17                    43.            President, U.N.C. System.  
18                    44.            Chairman, A.B.C. Commission.  
19                    45.            Member, A.B.C. Commission.  
20                    46.            Member, A.B.C. Commission.  
21                    47.            Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture.  
22                    48.            Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture.  
23                    49.            Deputy Secretary of State.  
24                    50.            Deputy State Treasurer.  
25                    51.            Assistant State Treasurer.  
26                    52.            Deputy Commissioner, Department of Labor.  
27                    53.            Chief Deputy, Department of Insurance.  
28                    54.            Assistant Commissioner of Insurance.  
29                    55-65.        Shall be reserved for and assigned to the Attorney  
30                                       General's deputies and assistants only. Specific  
31                                       number assignments shall be at the direction of the  
32                                       Attorney General.  
33                    66-88.        Shall be reserved for and assigned upon request to  
34                                       nonlegislative members of the Board of Economic  
35                                       Development. Specific number assignments to such  
36                                       members shall be at the direction of the Governor.  
37                    89-96.        Shall be reserved for and assigned upon request to  
38                                       nonlegislative members of the State Ports Authority.  
39                                       Specific number assignments to such members shall be  
40                                       at the direction of the Governor.  
41                    97-104.      Shall be reserved for and assigned upon request to  
42                                       members of the Utilities Commission. Number 97 to  
43                                       be upon request assigned to the Chairman of the  
44                                       Utilities Commission with remaining numbers to be

1 assigned upon request to the remaining members of the  
2 Utilities Commission on the basis of seniority.

3 105-109. Shall be reserved for and assigned upon request  
4 members of the Parole Commission. Number 105 to  
5 be upon request assigned to the Chairman of the Parole  
6 Commission with remaining numbers to be assigned  
7 upon request to the remaining members of the Parole  
8 Commission on the basis of seniority.

9 110-200. Shall be reserved for and assigned upon request to  
10 members of State boards and commissions and State  
11 employees at the direction of the Governor.

12 (5) Department of Transportation. – Official plates shall be issued upon  
13 request to various members of the Divisions of the Department of  
14 Transportation which shall bear the letters 'DOT' followed by a  
15 number designated from 1 through 85. Specific number assignments  
16 to members of the Divisions of the Department of Transportation shall  
17 be at the direction of the Governor.

18 (6) Consular and Diplomatic Officials. – Official plates shall be issued  
19 upon request to an accredited consul, honorary consul, or diplomatic  
20 officer of a foreign government. The plate shall bear the letters  
21 'Consul' followed by the international alphabetical designation for the  
22 country represented by the consul or diplomatic officer and followed  
23 by a numerical designation beginning with the number '1' and  
24 followed sequentially based on the number of applicants. Every  
25 application for a registration plate under this subsection shall be  
26 accompanied by a certificate from the Secretary of State of the United  
27 States or his agent that the applicant is an accredited consul, honorary  
28 consul, or diplomatic officer.

29 (b) License plates issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of  
30 Transportation pursuant to this section shall be assessed a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00), in  
31 addition to any fees charged under G.S. 20-87 and 20-88. These plates will be subject  
32 to the same transfer provisions as provided in G.S. 20-64.

33 (c) The revenue derived from the additional fee for such plates shall be placed in  
34 a separate fund designated the 'Officials Registration Plate Fund'—Fund'. After  
35 deducting the cost of the plates, plus budgetary requirements for handling an issuance,  
36 to be determined by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, any remaining moneys  
37 derived from the additional fee for such plate shall be periodically transferred in  
38 accordance with G.S. 20-81.3(c)."

39 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification. With respect to official judicial  
40 license plates, this act shall apply to each affected person on the date of the first  
41 subsequent regular renewal of his existing appellate division plate, or upon the date of  
42 the subsequent regular issuance of his first appellate plate. With respect to official  
43 legislative staff license plates, the Legislative Services Officer may determine seniority

- 1 of service to the General Assembly immediately upon ratification of this act to the end
- 2 that such plates may be issued for the balance of 1989.