

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

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SENATE BILL 359

Short Title: Modify Special Plate Design Requirements. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Jenkins.

Referred to: Finance.

March 17, 2011

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.  
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 20-63(b) reads as rewritten:

5 "(b) Every license plate must display the registration number assigned to the vehicle for  
6 which it is issued, the name of the State of North Carolina, which may be abbreviated, and the  
7 year number for which it is issued or the date of expiration. A plate issued for a commercial  
8 vehicle, as defined in G.S. 20-4.2(1), and weighing 26,001 pounds or more, must bear the word  
9 "commercial," unless the plate is a special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4 or the  
10 commercial vehicle is a trailer or is licensed for 6,000 pounds or less. The plate issued for  
11 vehicles licensed for 7,000 pounds through 26,000 pounds must bear the word "weighted,"  
12 unless the plate is a special registration plate authorized in G.S. 20-79.4.

13 Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a registration plate issued by the Division  
14 for a private passenger vehicle or for a private hauler vehicle licensed for 6,000 pounds or less  
15 shall be a "First in Flight" plate. A "First in Flight" plate shall have the words "First in Flight"  
16 printed at the top of the plate above all other letters and numerals. The background of the plate  
17 shall depict the Wright Brothers biplane flying over Kitty Hawk Beach, with the plane flying  
18 slightly upward and to the right. ~~The following special~~ Special registration plates do not have to  
19 be a "First in Flight" plate. The Division shall develop, in consultation with the State Highway  
20 Patrol and the Department of Correction, a standardized format for special registration plates.  
21 The format shall allow for the license plate to be read easily by the human eye and by cameras  
22 installed along roadways as part of a tolling, red-light, or speed enforcement program. A  
23 designated portion of the plate shall be used for any unique design or logo representing the  
24 group or interest for which the Division is authorized to produce the special registration plate.  
25 The design of the plates that are not "First in Flight" plates must be approved by the Division  
26 and the State Highway Patrol for clarity and ease of identification.

- 27 (1) ~~Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.~~  
28 (2) ~~Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.~~  
29 (3) ~~Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation.~~  
30 (4) ~~Friends of the Appalachian Trail.~~  
31 (5) ~~NC Coastal Federation.~~  
32 (6) ~~In God We Trust.~~  
33 (7) ~~Stock Car Racing Theme.~~  
34 (8) ~~Buddy Pelletier Surfing Foundation.~~  
35 (9) ~~Guilford Battleground Company.~~  
36 (10) ~~National Wild Turkey Federation.~~  
37 (11) ~~North Carolina Aquarium Society.~~



- 1           (12) ~~First in Forestry.~~  
 2           (13) ~~North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.~~  
 3           (14) ~~NC Trout Unlimited.~~  
 4           (15) ~~Ducks Unlimited.~~  
 5           (16) ~~Lung Cancer Research.~~  
 6           (17) ~~NC State Parks.~~  
 7           (18) ~~Support Our Troops.~~  
 8           (19) ~~US Equine Rescue League.~~  
 9           (20) ~~Fox Hunting.~~  
 10          (21) ~~Back Country Horsemen of North Carolina.~~  
 11          (22) ~~Hospice Care.~~  
 12          (23) ~~Home Care and Hospice.~~  
 13          (24) ~~NC Tennis Foundation.~~  
 14          (25) ~~AIDS Awareness."~~

15           **SECTION 2.** G.S. 20-79.4(b) reads as rewritten:

16   "**§ 20-79.4. Special registration plates.**

17    ...  
 18    (b)   Types. – The Division shall issue the following types of special registration plates:

19    ...  
 20    (14)   Autism Society of North Carolina. – Issuable to the registered owner of a  
 21    motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the  
 22    phrase "~~Autism Society of North Carolina~~", the phrase "~~Providing Support,~~  
 23    ~~Promoting Opportunities~~", "Autism Society of North Carolina" and the logo  
 24    of the Autism Society.

25    ...  
 26    (68)   Hospice Care. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in  
 27    accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the phrase "Hospice  
 28    Care" and the letters "~~HC~~" on the right side of the plate. "HC."

29    ...  
 30    (91)   National Kidney Foundation. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor  
 31    vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear a phrase and  
 32    logo ~~selected by~~ representing the Foundation.

33    ...  
 34    (103)  North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation. – Issuable to the owner of a  
 35    motor vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the  
 36    logo of the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat ~~Foundation on the left side and~~  
 37    ~~the background of the entire plate shall be beige or tan color. The numbers~~  
 38    ~~or other writing on the plate shall be black and the border shall be black. The~~  
 39    ~~plate shall be developed by the Division in consultation with and approved~~  
 40    ~~by the North Carolina Wildlife Habitat Foundation.~~ Foundation. The  
 41    Division may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it  
 42    receives at least 300 applications for the plate.

43    ...."

44    **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-81.12(a) reads as rewritten:

45    "(a)   Collegiate Insignia Plates. – The Division must receive 300 or more applications for  
 46    a collegiate insignia license plate for a college or university before a collegiate license plate  
 47    may be developed. The color, design, and material for the plate must be ~~approved by both the~~  
 48    ~~Division and developed in consultation with~~ the alumni or alumnae association of the  
 49    appropriate college or university. The Division must transfer quarterly the money in the  
 50    Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of in-State collegiate  
 51    insignia plates to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for in-State,

1 public colleges and universities and to the respective board of trustees for in-State, private  
2 colleges and universities in proportion to the number of collegiate plates sold representing that  
3 institution for use for academic enhancement."

4           **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.