



HOUSE BILL 986: Zeta Phi Beta/Long Leaf Pine Plate Changes.

2016-2017 General Assembly

Committee:	House Finance	Date:	June 28, 2016
Introduced by:	Rep. Gill	Prepared by:	Trina Griffin
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition		Committee Counsel
	H986-CSSV-57		

SUMMARY: *House Bill 986 would reauthorize the Zeta Phi Beta special registration plate. The plate was originally authorized effective January 1, 2004, and expired October 1, 2014.*

The PCS would add a provision to allow the Order of the Long Leaf Pine special registration plate to be on a full-color background rather than the standard "First in Flight" or "First in Freedom" background.

CURRENT LAW: North Carolina offers a number of special registration plates. Upon application and payment of the required registration fees, a person may obtain from the Division of Motor Vehicles a special registration plate for a motor vehicle registered in that person's name if the person qualifies for the registration plate. As a general rule, the fee for a special registration plate is the regular vehicle registration fee plus a \$10 special registration plate fee. The cost of some special plates includes a fee in addition to the \$10 special registration plate fee. In those instances, the first \$10 goes to the special registration plate fund and the remainder is transferred quarterly to designated beneficiaries of the additional fee amount.

Zeta Phi Beta Plate. – The Zeta Phi Beta special registration plate was authorized effective January 1, 2004. The plate was to bear the sorority's name and symbol. The authorization included an additional \$20 fee, with half of the additional fee to be transferred to the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Education Foundation for the benefit of undergraduate scholarships in the State. The Division was required to receive at least 300 applications for the plate before the plate could be developed. In 2011, the General Assembly passed legislation enacting G.S. 20-79.8, which provides for the expiration of special plate authorizations if they do not receive the required number of applications. Pursuant to that legislation, the Zeta Phi Beta plate expired on July 1, 2013. S.L. 2014-96 reauthorized the plate, but it expired again on October 1, 2014.

Order of the Long Leaf Pine Plate. – In 2013, the General Assembly authorized a special registration plate for a person who has received the award of membership into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine by the Governor. The fee for the plate is \$20, with the additional \$10 going to the General Fund. At the time of enactment, at least 300 applications were required to be submitted in order for DMV to develop the plate. According to the Order of the Long Leaf Pine Society's website, there have been over 18,000 recipients since June, 1963, when the first certificate appears to have been issued. In the 2015 Appropriations Act, the plate was exempted from the minimum application requirement.

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BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 986 would reauthorize the Zeta Phi Beta special registration plate as it existed prior to its expiration, including the fee amount, distribution of the additional fee, and the requirement for at least 300 applications before the Division would develop the plate.

The PCS would add the Order of the Long Leaf Pine plate to the list of plates that are not required to have the standard "First in Flight" or "First in Freedom" background. Currently, there are 53 plates that are authorized to be on a full-color background. In 2013, the General Assembly imposed a new requirement that in order for a plate to have a full-color background, the organization must obtain an additional 200 applications, for a total of 500 applications for most plates. However, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine plate is exempted from the minimum application requirement altogether.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when the act becomes law.