



HOUSE BILL 118: Various Special License Plates.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee: House Finance	Date: June 14, 2017
Introduced by: Reps. Setzer, Henson, Destin Hall, Blust	Prepared by: Trina Griffin
Analysis of: Third Edition H118-CSSVf-33	Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: House Bill 118 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue various special license plates and would make other changes to certain existing special plates.

BILL ANALYSIS: The Proposed Committee Substitute would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue various special license plates and makes other changes to existing plates as set out in the tables below:

CREATION OF NEW SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES

Organization	Special License Plate Fee ¹	Background	Minimum Applications Required	Followed Plate Development Guidelines?	Original Bill
Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament	\$30	Full Color	500	Yes	N/A
United States Army Special Forces	None	First in Flight	300	No	H118
Kick Cancer for Kids	\$30	First in Flight	300	Yes	H592
Morrow Mountain State Park	\$30	First in Flight	300	No	H332
North Carolina Troopers Association	\$30	First in Flight	300	No	N/A

CHANGES TO EXISTING PLATES

Organization	Bill Action	Original Bill
Kappa Alpha Psi	Increases special registration plate fee from \$10 to \$20.	H169
Order of the Long Leaf Pine	Authorizes full color background. (This plate is exempt from having to obtain the otherwise required 500 minimum applications.)	N/A
Military College	Reduces minimum application requirement from 300 to 100.	H326

¹ This fee is in addition to the standard fee for a registration plate, which is \$36.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



H 1 1 8 - S M S V - 6 6 C S S V F - 3 3 - V - 2

Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

House PCS 118

Page 2

Air Medal Recipient	Eliminates \$10 special registration plate fee.	H118
Distinguished Flying Cross	Eliminates \$10 special registration plate fee.	H118

CURRENT LAW:

Plate Development. – 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 plate.

In 2014, the General Assembly enacted legislation creating a new development process for special registration plates, which requires the organization desiring the plate to submit, by February 15, the required number of paid applications to the Division of Motor Vehicles before legislation is introduced to authorize the plate. The Division is required to submit a report to the General Assembly each year by March 15 identifying applicants who have met the plate development requirements and are eligible for legislative consideration. This process ensures that there is sufficient interest in the plate prior to legislative action authorizing the plate. During its consideration of this legislation, the General Assembly determined that over 125 plates had been legislatively authorized that were never developed by DMV because the organizations were unable to collect 300 paid applications.

The issuance of most special plates is contingent upon the receipt by DMV of at least 300 applications for the particular plate if it is on a standard "First in Flight" background or at least 500 applications if it is on a full-color background.

Special Plate Fees. – As a general rule, the fee for a special registration plate is the regular vehicle registration fee, which is \$36, plus a special registration plate fee of at least \$10. \$10 of the special registration plate fee is credited to the Special Registration Plate Account. After deducting the cost of the plates from this account, \$1.3 million is appropriated to provide operating assistance for Visitor Centers. Fifty percent (50%) of the remaining revenue is transferred quarterly to the Department of Transportation for highway beautification and the remainder is transferred quarterly to the Highway Fund to be used for the Roadside Vegetation Management Program.

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.

The following military service-related plates are issued without the additional special registration plate fee:

- Active Member of the National Guard
- Bronze Star Recipient
- 100% Disabled Veteran
- Gold Star Lapel Button
- Legion of Valor
- Military Wartime Veteran
- Pearl Harbor Survivor
- Silver Star Recipient
- Bronze Star Combat Recipient
- Combat Veteran
- Ex-Prisoner of War
- Legion of Merit
- Military Veteran
- Partially Disabled Veteran
- Purple Heart Recipient

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