



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 212: Zeta Phi Beta Special Registration Plate.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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| Committee: | House Finance | Date: | April 6, 2017 |
| Introduced by: | Reps. Gill, Pierce, Holley, B. Richardson | Prepared by: | Trina Griffin |
| Analysis of: | Second Edition | | Committee Co-Counsel |

OVERVIEW: House Bill 212 would reauthorize the Zeta Phi Beta special registration plate. The plate was originally authorized in 2003 but expired in 2014 because it did not have the required applications. Zeta Phi Beta has now completed the new special plate development process through the Division of Motor Vehicles and has submitted the required number of paid applications.

CURRENT LAW AND BACKGROUND: 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. The issuance of most authorized plates is contingent upon the receipt by the Division of at least 300 applications for the particular plate, or 500 applications for full-color background plates.

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 \$10 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. The remaining revenue in the account is transferred quarterly to the Department of Transportation for highway beautification (50%) and the Highway Fund for the Roadside Vegetation Management Program (50%). 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.

The Zeta Phi Beta special registration plate was originally authorized in 2003 (S.L. 2003-424). The plate was to bear the sorority's name and symbol. The authorization included a \$10 fee, in addition to the \$10 special registration plate 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 (S.L. 2011-392) providing for the expiration of special plate authorizations that did not receive the required number of applications. Pursuant to that legislation, the Zeta Phi Beta plate expired on July 1, 2013. The plate was reauthorized in July of 2014 but expired again on October 1, 2014, because it did not have the required number of applications (S.L. 2014-96).

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 the required number of paid applications to the Division before legislation is introduced to authorize the plate. The Division is required to submit a report to the General Assembly each year identifying applicants who have met the plate development requirements and are eligible for legislative consideration. Zeta Phi Beta has now completed the process and submitted the required number of paid applications and draft artwork. This plate was included in the Division's report to the General Assembly of special registration plates to be

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authorized in the 2016 Legislative Session. A bill to authorize the plate was introduced in 2016 but did not pass (House Bill 986). The Division has again included the plate in its 2017 report.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 212 would reauthorize the Zeta Phi Beta special registration plate as it existed before its expiration on October 1, 2014. The organization has now completed the plate development process and submitted the required number of paid applications to be eligible for authorization. If authorized, the plate would bear the sorority's name and symbol on a First in Flight background. The fee for the plate would be the regular registration fee plus \$20, with \$10 going to the Special Registration Plate Account and the additional \$10 going to the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Education Foundation for the benefit of undergraduate scholarships in the State.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective July 1, 2017.

Wendy Ray, counsel to House Transportation, substantially contributed to this summary.