



# HOUSE BILL 223: Special Plates/Handicapped Placard Renewal.

2017-2018 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	July 19, 2018
<b>Introduced by:</b>		<b>Prepared by:</b>	Howard Marsilio Staff Attorney
<b>Analysis of:</b>	S.L. 2018-77		

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**OVERVIEW:** *S.L. 2018-77 makes the following changes to the law as it relates to special registration plates:*

- *Authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles (Division) to issue a 100% Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate and a Partially Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate, and authorizes the Division to issue free of charge, upon request, a single 100% Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate.*
- *Authorizes the Division to produce new Alpha Phi Alpha and Order of the Eastern Star special registration plates.*
- *Reduces the number of applications required, from 300 to 100, before the Division develops a collegiate insignia plate for a public military college or university.*
- *Provides that handicap placards that expire after a person has reached 80 years of age do not have to be renewed and remain valid.*
- *Authorizes Secretaries of participating Departments to delegate budgetary decisions under a certain dollar threshold to their Chief Information Officers for the purpose of State information technology consolidation under the Department of Information Technology.*

*The new Alpha Phi Alpha and Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliated plates will become effective February 1, 2019. The authorization for Department Secretaries to delegate certain budgetary decisions became effective July 1, 2018. The remainder of the act became effective June 25, 2018.*

**CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS:** This act makes changes to the Division of Motor Vehicles' authority to issue special registration plates as follows:

**Disabled and Partially Disabled Veteran motorcycle plates.** Under current law, the Division is issuing the following:

- Disabled Veteran license plates: Currently, the Division is authorized to issue this plate to a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who has suffered a 100% service connected disability.

The first plate of this type issued to an applicant is free of charge. Additional plates are issuable at the regular registration fee of \$36, and no additional special plate fee.

- Partially Disabled Veteran license plates: Currently, the Division is authorized to issue this plate to a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who suffered a service connected disability of less than 100%.

This plate is issuable for the regular registration fee and no additional special plate fee.

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- Motorcycle plates: Currently, the Division is authorized to issue a Blue Ridge Parkway motorcycle plate and personalized motorcycle plates.

**Section 1** authorizes the Division to issue:

- A Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate. The first Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate issued is free of charge. This plate is in addition to the first Disabled Veteran regular license plate, and would continue to be free of charge. Additional motorcycle plates of this type are issuable for the regular motorcycle registration plate fee.
- A Partially Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate, for the regular motorcycle registration plate fee.

**Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity special plate.** **Section 2** authorizes the Division to produce an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity special registration plate. This is a reauthorization of a plate that was authorized previously but expired in 2016. This organization has now successfully completed the statutory plate development process. The plate is on a full color background. The fee for the plate is the regular registration fee plus \$30, with the first \$10 going to the Special Registration Plate Account and the remaining \$20 going to the Education Consortium of North Carolina, Inc. for scholarships to benefit African-American males attending accredited North Carolina colleges and universities.

**Collegiate Insignia Plates for public military colleges and universities.** Current law provides an authorization for a category of special plates representing colleges and universities. The Division must receive at least 300 applications for a particular college or university to develop and produce a collegiate insignia plate pursuant to this authorization. **Section 3** of this act reduces the minimum number of applications required to develop and produce a collegiate insignia plate for a public military college or university from 300 to 100.

**Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliated special plate.** **Section 3.5** authorizes the Division to produce an Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliated special registration plate. This organization has successfully completed the statutory plate development process. The fee for the plate is the regular registration fee plus \$20, with the first \$10 going to the Special Registration Plate Account and the remaining \$10 to be transferred to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of North Carolina, PHA.

**No renewal of handicapped placards after age 80.** Under current law, handicapped placards must be renewed every five years, and, except for a person certified as totally and permanently disabled, the renewal requires a medical recertification that the person is handicapped. **Section 4** provides that handicap placards that expire after a person has reached 80 years of age no longer requires a medical recertification with placard renewal.

**Budgetary delegation authority authorization.** During the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the State Chief Information Officer was required to work with appropriate State agencies to develop a State business plan and to develop detailed plans for the phased transition of participating agencies to the Department, as well as a plan that defines in detail how information technology support shall be provided to agencies that are not participating agencies, with the purpose to consolidate certain State information technology under the Department of Information Technology. **Section 4.5** authorizes the Secretaries of Departments to delegate budgetary decision making authority under a specified monetary threshold set by the Department to the Chief Information Officers for participating agencies.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The new Alpha Phi Alpha and Order of the Eastern Star Prince Hall Affiliated plates will become effective February 1, 2019. The authorization for Department Secretaries to delegate certain budgetary decisions became effective July 1, 2018. The remainder of the act became effective June 25, 2018.