



HOUSE BILL 223: Special Plates/Handicapped Placard Renewal.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	June 13, 2018
Introduced by:	Rep. Cleveland	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	Third Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 223 would make the following changes to the law as it relates to special registration plates:

- *Authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a 100% Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate and a Partially Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate, and authorize the Division to issue free of charge, upon request, a single 100% Disabled Veteran motorcycle plate.*
- *Authorize the Division to produce new Alpha Phi Alpha and Order of the Eastern Star special registration plates.*
- *Reduce the number of applications required from 300 to 100 before the Division would develop a collegiate insignia plate for a public military college or university.*
- *Provide that handicap placards that expire after a person has reached 80 years of age do not have to be renewed and remain valid.*

CURRENT LAW AND BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 223 would make 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, issuable 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, issuable 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.
- Motorcycle plates: Currently, the Division is authorized to issue a Blue Ridge Parkway motorcycle plate and personalized motorcycle plates.

Section 1 would authorize the Division to issue:

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

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



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Division
919-733-2578

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity special plate. **Section 2** would authorize the Division to produce an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity special registration plate. This would be 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 would be on a full color background. The fee for the plate would be the regular registration fee plus \$30, with the first \$10 going to the Special Registration Plate Account and the remaining \$20 to be transferred 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 produce a collegiate insignia plate pursuant to this authorization. **Section 3** of the PCS would reduce the minimum number of applications required to produce a collegiate insignia plate for a public military college or university from 300 to 100.

Order of the Eastern Star special plate. **Section 3.5** would authorize 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 would be 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 Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star, 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** would provide that handicap placards that expire after a person has reached 80 years of age do not have to be renewed and remain valid.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except for the authorization for the new Alpha Phi Alpha plate, which would become effective February 1, 2019, the act would be effective when it becomes law.