



HOUSE BILL 332: Morrow Mountain State Park License Plate.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Transportation. If favorable, re-refer to Finance	Date:	April 4, 2017
Introduced by:	Rep. Burr	Prepared by:	Wendy Graf Ray Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	First Edition		

OVERVIEW: House Bill 332 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a Morrow Mountain State Park special registration plate. The plate would be exempt from the new plate development process, but the Division would have to receive at least 300 applications for the plate before it could be developed.

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 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.

In 2014, the General Assembly enacted legislation creating a new development process for special registration plates (G.S. 20-79.3A), 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. Applications must be submitted by February 15 of the year in which legislation is to be considered. The Division is then required to submit a report to the General Assembly identifying applicants who have met the plate development requirements and are eligible for legislative consideration.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 332 would authorize the Division to produce a Morrow Mountain State Park special license plate. The plate would bear the phrase "Morrow Mountain State Park" and a logo designed by the Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park. The fee for the plate would be the regular registration fee plus \$30, with \$20 going to the Friends of Morrow Mountain State Park to be used to provide support for the organization.

The plate would be exempt from the new plate development process under G.S. 20-79.3A. However, the bill requires that the Division receive 300 applications for the new plate before it may be developed.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would be effective July 1, 2018.

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Legislative Analysis
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