



SENATE BILL 119: Pisgah Conservancy Special Registration Plate.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	August 17, 2017
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Wendy Ray Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2017-107		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2017-107 authorizes the Pisgah Conservancy special registration plate to be issued with a full-color background.*

This act became effective July 1, 2017.

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, 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. The organization applying for the Pisgah Conservancy plate has 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 authorized in the 2017 Legislative Session.

BILL ANALYSIS: This act authorizes the Pisgah Conservancy special registration plate to be issued with a full-color background. The organization completed the plate development process and submitted the required number of paid applications to be eligible for authorization. The plate is to bear the phrase "The Pisgah Conservancy", a representation of Looking Glass Rock and rhododendron flowers, and a background of blue sky. The fee for the plate is the regular registration fee plus \$30, with \$10 going to the Special Registration Plate Account and the additional \$20 to the Pisgah Conservancy to be used to provide support for the mission and goals of the Conservancy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act became effective July 1, 2017.

Karen Cochrane-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
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