



# HOUSE BILL 449: Special Registration Plates.

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

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	Senate Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	<b>Date:</b>	July 1, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Iler, Torbett	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Cindy Avrette
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Second Edition		Staff Attorney

**OVERVIEW:** House Bill 449 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce four new special registration plates for which the organizations requesting the plates have completed the statutory plate development process:

- *ALS Research*
- *A Pet is Family*
- *Keeping the Lights On*
- *Wrightsville Beach*

**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 [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. Once legislation has passed, the organization must submit the final artwork and list of paid applicants to the Division within 60 days, or the authorization expires.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** House Bill 449 would authorize the Division to produce four new special registration plates as follows:

- **ALS Research - A First in Flight plate** with a picture of a baseball and the phrase "Cure ALS". The fee would be \$30, with \$20 going to The ALS Association of North Carolina Chapter to support ALS research.

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- A Pet Is Family – A First in Flight plate with a picture of a paw print and the phrase "My Pet Is Family". The fee would be \$15, with \$5 going to The Sergei Foundation, Inc. to further its mission of saving companion pets' lives by coordinating care for sick and injured dogs and cats and providing families with resources to obtain life-saving veterinary care.
- Keeping The Lights On – A full color background plate with a background of mountains to the coast and a picture of a line worker on a utility pole and the phrase "Keeping The Lights On". The fee would be \$30, with \$20 going to the UNC Jaycee Burn Center.
- Wrightsville Beach – A First in Flight plate with the Town of Wrightsville Beach logo and the suffix WB after the assigned characters. The fee would be \$20, with \$10 going to the Town of Wrightsville Beach to help fund the Town's continuing efforts to maintain and improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of Wrightsville Beach.

Each of the organizations requesting these plates has completed the requirements of the plate development process, including submitting the required number of paid applications for the plate, as reported by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would become effective March 1, 2020.

*Wendy Ray and Trina Griffin substantially contributed to this summary.*