



HOUSE BILL 449: Special Registration Plates.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	July 10, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Iler, Torbett	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	Fourth Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 449 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a "Keeping The Lights On" special registration plate. The organization requesting the plate has completed the statutory plate development process. The bill would also authorize the Division to produce a "POW/MIA Bring Them Home" special registration plate for motor vehicles and motorcycles.*

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 a new "Keeping The Lights On" special registration plate. It would be 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. The organization requesting the plate 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.

The bill would also authorize the Division to produce a "POW/MIA Bring Them Home" special registration plate for motor vehicles and motorcycles. The plate would be on a full-color background and would be exempt from the plate development process, the expiration provisions that generally apply to new special registration plates, and the required minimum number of applications. The Division would be required to issue the plates after receiving 350 applications (motor vehicle and motorcycle applications would both count toward the 350 total required.) The fee for the plate would be \$20 in addition to the

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regular registration fee. The first \$10 of the additional fee would go to the Special Registration Plate Account, and the additional \$10 would be transferred to Rolling Thunder, Inc., Chapter #1 North Carolina.

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