



# HOUSE BILL 544: NCAMC/NCACC Special Regis. Plate.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	May 15, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Potts, Jarvis, Corbin, Yarborough	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Trina Griffin
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H544-CSSUf-20		Committee Co-Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 544 would reauthorize the expired NCAMC/NCACC special registration plate, reduce the number of applications required for the plate, and provide for an additional fee to be transferred to the NC Kids digital library.*

**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.

The NCAMC/NCACC special registration plate was originally authorized in 2011 as the City/County Clerk plate with a requirement that the Division not issue the plate until it received at least 300 applications. In 2013, the authorization was amended to change the name to the NCAMC/NCACC plate. The authorization subsequently expired on July 1, 2016, because the required number of applications had not been received.

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# House PCS 544

Page 2

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The Proposed Committee Substitute for House Bill 544 does the following:

- Reauthorizes the NCAMC/NCACC special registration plate as it existed prior to its expiration in 2016.
- Requires only 50 applications for each plate before it would be issued by the Division. Therefore, the Division must receive 50 applications in order to develop the municipal clerk plate and 50 applications to develop the county clerk plate.
- Requires the applicant to furnish proof to the Division that the applicant currently holds the position.
- Provides for a \$30 fee for the plate in addition to the regular registration fee, with \$20 of the additional fee going to the NC Kids digital library.
- Exempts these plates from the plate development process and expiration provisions that generally apply to new special registration plates.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** The act would become effective July 1, 2019.

*Wendy Graf Ray, counsel to House Transportation, substantially contributed to this summary.*