



HOUSE BILL 429: Turtle Rescue Team Special Registration Plate.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	May 6, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Dahle, Ball, Cervania, Johnson-Hostler	Prepared by:	Trina Griffin
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 429 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a new Turtle Rescue Team special registration plate. The requestor of the plate has submitted everything required by the statutory plate development process, making this authorization eligible for consideration during the current legislative session.*

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 a standard background 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 429 would authorize the Division to produce a new Turtle Rescue Team special registration plate with a standard background. The plate would be issuable to a registered owner of a motor vehicle and would bear an image of an eastern box turtle and the phrase "Turtle Rescue Team." The fee for the plate, in addition to the regular vehicle registration fee, would be \$30, of which \$20 would be transferred to the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine Turtle Rescue Team to support its mission of providing medical, surgical, and husbandry services free of charge in the hope of releasing rehabilitated turtles back into the wild.

The requestor of the plate has completed the requirements of the plate development process, including submitting the required number of paid applications, as reported by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective when it becomes law.

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
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