



HOUSE BILL 734: Venus Flytrap Special Registration Plate.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	May 4, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Buansi, Iler, Davis, Clemmons	Prepared by:	Wendy Ray
Analysis of:	First Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: House Bill 734 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a new Home of the Venus Flytrap 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 734 would authorize the Division to produce a new Home of the Venus Flytrap special registration plate with a full-color background. The plate would be issuable to a registered owner of a motor vehicle and would bear a picture of a Venus Flytrap and the phrase "Home of the Venus Flytrap". 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 Botanical Garden Foundation, Inc. to be used to support plant conservation and research.

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 July 1, 2023.

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Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
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