

SENATE, No. 1268

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator JAMES BEACH

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Diegnan

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes special "We Support the Arts" license plates with proceeds to New Jersey State Council on Arts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As reported by the Senate Transportation Committee with technical review.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 1/25/2024)

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2

1 AN ACT concerning license plates and supplementing chapter 3 of
2 Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
8 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue support the arts
9 license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered
10 in the State. In addition to the registration number and other
11 markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the support
12 the arts license plate shall display the slogan "We Support the
13 Arts." The chief administrator shall choose the design, including an
14 emblem and color scheme, based upon the results of a Statewide
15 contest for the design of the plates.

16

17 2. Application for issuance of a support the arts license plate
18 shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a manner
19 prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be deemed
20 complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50,
21 payable to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, which shall
22 be in addition to the fee otherwise prescribed by law for the
23 registration of motor vehicles. The chief administrator shall collect
24 annually, subsequent to the year of issuance of the support the arts
25 license plate, a \$10 fee for the license plate in addition to the fees
26 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle.

27

28 3. a. There shall be deposited into a special non-lapsing
29 account to be known as the "Support the Arts Fund" the additional
30 application and renewal fees collected pursuant to section 2 of
31 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
32 and any interest earned thereon, less the amounts necessary to
33 reimburse the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission for
34 administrative costs pursuant to this section. The monies in the
35 fund shall be distributed to the New Jersey State Council on the
36 Arts in the Department of State, established pursuant to section 1 of
37 P.L.1966 c.214 (C.52:16A-25) to support the arts in New Jersey.

38 b. Prior to the deposit of license plate fees collected pursuant to
39 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
40 as this bill) into the fund, amounts thereof as are necessary shall be
41 used to reimburse the commission for costs reasonably and actually
42 incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator, for producing,
43 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of support the
44 arts license plates, including the cost of any initial computer
45 programming changes.

46 c. The chief administrator annually shall certify to the State
47 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the
48 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,

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1 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of support the
2 arts license plates. The annual certification of the average cost per
3 license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
4 Committee, or its successor.

5 d. In the event that the average cost per license plate as
6 certified by the chief administrator and approved by the Joint
7 Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, is greater than the
8 \$50 application fee established in section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.)
9 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) in two consecutive
10 fiscal years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of
11 support the arts license plates.

12

13 4. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
14 opportunity to obtain support the arts license plates by including a
15 notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals and by posting
16 appropriate posters or signs in all commission facilities and offices.
17 The notices, posters, and signs shall be designed by the
18 commission, after consultation with the artist who submitted the
19 winning design.

20

21 5. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the New Jersey
22 Motor Vehicle Commission for the initial cost of:

23 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability
24 of support the arts license plates; or

25 (2) any computer programming changes which may be necessary
26 to implement the support the arts license plate program established
27 by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
28 bill).

29 b. The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, or an individual
30 or entity designated by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts,
31 shall contribute non-public monies in an amount to be determined
32 by the chief administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be
33 used to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for
34 designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of
35 support the arts license plates, and any computer programming
36 which may be necessary to implement the program. Concerned
37 organizations and individual donors may contribute monies to the
38 New Jersey State Council on the Arts to be used to offset the initial
39 costs incurred by the commission for the support the arts license
40 plates authorized by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
41 Legislature as this bill). Any amount remaining after the payment
42 of the initial cost shall be deposited in the "Support the Arts Fund"
43 established pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
44 before the Legislature as this bill).

45 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
46 issuing, or publicizing the availability of support the arts license
47 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until the
48 following requirements have been met:

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1 (1) the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, or an individual or
2 entity designated by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, has
3 provided the commission with the money necessary, as determined
4 by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
5 to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing
6 the support the arts license plate program; and

7 (2) the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, or an individual or
8 entity designated by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, has
9 provided the commission with not less than 500 completed
10 applications for support the arts license plates. These applications
11 shall constitute the initial order for support the arts license plates
12 and shall be accompanied by a fee representing the total cost of the
13 initial order. The fee shall be determined by multiplying the
14 number of sets of license plates being ordered by the applicable
15 initial fee for each set of license plates as set forth in section 2 of
16 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

17
18 6. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
19 inoperative until the first day of the seventh month following the
20 date on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
21 subsection c. of section 5 of this act have been satisfied. The chief
22 administrator may take anticipatory actions in advance of that date
23 as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act. This
24 act shall expire on the last day of the 12th month following
25 enactment if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
26 subsection c. of section 5 of this act are not satisfied by that date.