

**ASSEMBLY, No. 203**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY**

**District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman RALPH R. CAPUTO**

**District 28 (Essex)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Thomson, DiMaio, Assemblywoman McCarthy Patrick,**

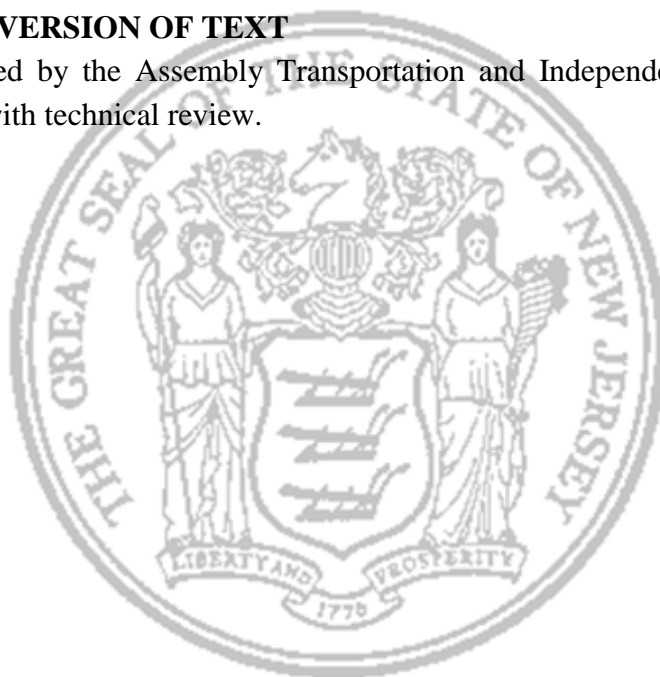
**Assemblyman Space, Assemblywomen Eulner and Piperno**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes creation of special license plates commemorating horse as State animal.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee with technical review.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/25/2023)**

1 AN ACT concerning the creation of special license plates  
2 commemorating the horse as the State animal and supplementing  
3 chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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

7  
8 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the  
9 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue State Animal  
10 license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered  
11 in this State. In addition to the registration number and other  
12 markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the license  
13 plates shall display the words "State Animal," and an emblem  
14 indicating that the horse is the official New Jersey State Animal.  
15 The chief administrator shall, in consultation with the Secretary of  
16 Agriculture, select the design and color scheme of the State Animal  
17 license plates. The State Animal license plates shall be subject to  
18 the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes,  
19 except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

20 b. Application for issuance of State Animal license plates shall  
21 be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a manner  
22 prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be deemed  
23 complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50,  
24 payable to the commission, which shall be in addition to the fees  
25 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle.

26 The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the  
27 year of issuance of the State Animal license plates, a \$10 fee for the  
28 license plates in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for  
29 the registration of a motor vehicle. The additional fees required by  
30 this subsection shall be deposited in the "State Animal License  
31 Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

32 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special  
33 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "State Animal License Plate  
34 Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount collected  
35 from all license plate fees collected pursuant to subsection b. of this  
36 section, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the commission for  
37 the administrative costs pursuant to subsection d. of this section.  
38 Monies deposited in the fund shall be appropriated annually to the  
39 New Jersey Department of Agriculture to support any departmental  
40 program to support the health and welfare of horses and to provide  
41 therapeutic riding to individuals with special needs in the State.  
42 Monies deposited in the fund shall be held in interest bearing  
43 accounts in public depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of  
44 P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in  
45 such securities as are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or  
46 other income earned on monies deposited in the fund, and any  
47 monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become available

1 for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and deposited in  
2 the fund for use as set forth in this section.

3 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant  
4 to subsection b. of this section into the "State Animal License Plate  
5 Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used to reimburse  
6 the commission for all costs reasonably and actually incurred, as  
7 stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

8 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the  
9 availability of the State Animal license plates; and

10 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially  
11 necessary to implement the State Animal license plate program in  
12 an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

13 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State  
14 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the  
15 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,  
16 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the State  
17 Animal license plates. The annual certification of the average cost  
18 per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight  
19 Committee, or its successor.

20 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by  
21 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight  
22 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee  
23 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal  
24 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of State  
25 Animal license plates.

26 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the  
27 opportunity to obtain State Animal license plates by publicizing the  
28 availability of the license plates on the website of the commission.  
29 The New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and any other  
30 individual or entity designated by the department, may publicize the  
31 availability of the license plates in any manner the department  
32 deems appropriate.

33 f. The chief administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture  
34 shall develop and enter into a memorandum of agreement setting  
35 forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their respective  
36 responsibilities under P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
37 Legislature as this bill).

38 g. The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a representative  
39 who shall act as a liaison between the department and the  
40 commission. The liaison shall represent the department in any and  
41 all communications with the commission regarding the license  
42 plates established by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
43 Legislature as this bill).

44  
45 2. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the  
46 commission for the initial cost of:

47 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the  
48 availability of State Animal license plates; or

1 (2) any computer programming changes which may be  
2 necessary to implement the State Animal license plate program  
3 established by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
4 Legislature as this bill).

5 b. An individual or entity designated by the Secretary of  
6 Agriculture shall contribute non-public monies in an amount to be  
7 determined by the chief administrator, not to exceed a total of  
8 \$25,000, to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the  
9 commission for designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the  
10 availability of State Animal license plates, and any computer  
11 programming which may be necessary to implement the program.  
12 Concerned organizations and individual donors may contribute  
13 monies to the department to be used to offset the initial costs  
14 incurred by the commission for the State Animal license plates  
15 authorized by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
16 Legislature as this bill). Any amount remaining after the payment  
17 of the initial cost shall be deposited in the "State Animal License  
18 Plate Fund" established pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of  
19 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

20 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,  
21 issuing, or publicizing the availability of State Animal license  
22 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until the  
23 following requirements have been met:

24 (1) The individual or entity designated by the Secretary of  
25 Agriculture has provided the commission with the money necessary,  
26 as determined by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b.  
27 of this section, to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission  
28 in establishing the State Animal license plate program; and

29 (2) The liaison appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture  
30 pursuant to subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. )  
31 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) has provided the  
32 commission with not less than 500 completed applications for State  
33 Animal license plates. These applications shall constitute the initial  
34 order for State Animal license plates and shall be accompanied by a  
35 fee representing the total cost of the initial order. The fee shall be  
36 determined by multiplying the number of sets of license plates  
37 being ordered by the applicable initial fee for each set of license  
38 plates as set forth in subsection b. of section 1 of  
39 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

40  
41 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain  
42 inoperative until the first day of the 13th month following the date  
43 on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
44 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
45 the Legislature as this bill) have been satisfied. The chief  
46 administrator may take such anticipatory actions in advance of that  
47 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of  
48 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  
2 shall expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
3 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
4 the Legislature as this bill) are not satisfied by the last day of the  
5 12th month following enactment.