

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 942

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 11, 2023

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 942.

As reported, this bill authorizes the Chief Administrator (chief administrator) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to issue special Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity) license plates.

The bill provides that the design of the Alpha Phi Alpha license plate is to display appropriate words or a slogan and an emblem honoring the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. The chief administrator, in consultation with the Eastern Region Vice-President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., is to select the design and color scheme of the Alpha Phi Alpha license plates.

In addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the registration of a motor vehicle, there is an application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the Alpha Phi Alpha license plates. After deducting the costs to implement the plates, the additional fees collected are to be deposited into a special non-lapsing fund known as the "Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. License Plate Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to be annually appropriated to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, to be used to support the organization's mission and programs.

The chief administrator is required to annually certify the average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief administrator may discontinue the Alpha Phi Alpha license plate program. The bill also requires that the Eastern Region Vice-President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. appoint the District Director to represent the Eastern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (New Jersey Association of Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters) in all communications with the commission regarding the Alpha Phi Alpha license plates.

The bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the Alpha Phi Alpha license plate program. The bill requires the Eastern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (New Jersey Association of Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters) or an individual or entity designated by the Eastern

Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. to contribute non-public monies, not to exceed \$25,000, to offset the initial costs to design, produce, issue, and publicize the license plates and for computer programming changes which may be necessary to implement the program. The bill authorizes the Eastern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (New Jersey Association of Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters) to receive funds from private sources to be used to offset the initial costs.

The commission is not required to design, produce, issue, or publicize the availability of the Alpha Phi Alpha license plates or make any necessary programming changes, until: 1) the Eastern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (New Jersey Association of Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters) or the individual or entity designated by the Eastern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has provided the commission with the money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. license plate program; and 2) the Eastern Region of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (New Jersey Association of Alpha Phi Alpha Chapters), liaison has provided the commission with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the Alpha Phi Alpha license plates.

The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first day of the seventh month after the appropriate applications and fees required to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission are provided to the commission. The bill expires on the last day of the 12th month if sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial costs are not received by that date.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.