

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT
AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 2178

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 16, 2023

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 2178.

As reported, this bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to issue special Domestic Violence Awareness license plates.

The bill provides that the design of the Domestic Violence Awareness license plate is to display an image of a purple ribbon and the words “Domestic Violence Awareness” below the image. The chief administrator, in consultation with the Department of Children and Families (department), is to select the design and color scheme of the Domestic Violence Awareness 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 Domestic Violence Awareness license plates. After the deduction of the cost of designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates and of any computer programming changes that are necessary to implement the license plate program, additional fees will be deposited into a special non-lapsing fund known as the “Domestic Violence Awareness License Plate Fund.” The proceeds of the fund are to be annually appropriated to the department and are to be used to provide grant funding to organizations and nonprofit agencies that support victims of domestic violence.

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 license plate program. The bill also requires that the Commissioner of the department appoint a liaison to represent the department in all communications with the commission regarding the Domestic Violence Awareness license plate.

The bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the Domestic Violence Awareness license plate program. The bill requires an individual or entity designated by the department 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 department 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 license plates, until: (1) the individual or entity is designated by the department has provided the commission with the money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing the license plate program; and (2) the department's liaison has provided the commission with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the license plates.

The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first day of the 13th 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 after enactment if sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial costs are not received by that date.