

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION AND INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO **ASSEMBLY, No. 4391**

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 15, 2023

The Assembly Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Assembly Bill No. 4391.

As amended and reported, this bill authorizes the Chief Administrator (chief administrator) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to issue United States Coast Guard license plates to current and former members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and to the spouse and parents of current and former members of the USCG. The design of the license plate is to be chosen by the chief administrator, in consultation with the USCG.

In addition to the required motor vehicle registration fees, there is an application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the license plates. After deducting the costs to implement the license plate program, the additional fees collected are to be deposited into the “United States Coast Guard License Plate Fund.” The proceeds of the fund are to be appropriated annually to the USCG.

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 USCG appoint a liaison to represent the USCG in all communications with the MVC regarding the license plates.

The bill provides that State or other public funds may not be used by the MVC for the initial cost to implement the license plate program. The bill requires the USCG, or an individual or entity designated by the USCG, 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 any computer programming necessary to implement the program. The bill authorizes the USCG to receive funds from private sources to be used to offset the initial costs.

The MVC is prohibited from designing, producing, issuing, or publicizing the availability of the license plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until: (1) the USCG, or an individual

or entity designated by the USCG, has provided the MVC with the money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred by the MVC in establishing the license plate program; and (2) the USCG, or its designee, has provided the MVC with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the license plates, upon the availability for purchase of those license plates.

The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first day of the 13th month after the date on which appropriate applications and fees required to offset the initial costs incurred by the MVC are provided by the USCG or its designee. 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.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

- require that the design of the license plates be chosen by the chief administrator, in consultation with the USCG;
- change the application fee from \$25 to \$50 and add an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the license plates;
- establish the “United States Coast Guard License Plate Fund” and require the proceeds to be annually appropriated to the USCG;
- provide that the application fee and renewal fee are to be deposited in the “United States Coast Guard License Plate Fund” after deducting the costs to implement the program;
- remove a provision that allows the chief administrator to increase the application fee in certain circumstances;
- require the chief administrator to notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to obtain license plates; require the chief administrator and the USCG to enter into a memorandum of agreement;
- require that the USCG appoint a liaison to represent the USCG in all communications with the MVC regarding the license plates;
- require the USCG, or an individual or entity designated by the USCG, 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 any computer programming necessary to implement the license plate program;
- prohibit the MVC from designing, producing, issuing, or publicizing the availability of the license plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until: (1) the USCG, or an individual or entity designated by the USCG, has provided the MVC with the money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred by the MVC in establishing the license plate program; and (2) the USCG, or its designee, has

provided the MVC with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the license plates, upon the availability for purchase of those license plates;

- and extend the effective date of the act and provide that the bill expires if certain conditions are not met by a certain date.