

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 3293

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: DECEMBER 1, 2022

The Senate Transportation Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 3293.

As reported, this bill authorizes special Combat Action Ribbon license plates. The license plate is to display the words "Combat Action Ribbon" and the Combat Action Ribbon emblem. An application to obtain a Combat Action Ribbon license plate is to include satisfactory proof that the applicant received the Combat Action Ribbon. 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 Combat Action Ribbon license plates. After deducting the cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates and of any computer programming changes that are necessary to implement the license plate program, the additional fees collected are to be deposited into the "Combat Action Ribbon License Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to be annually appropriated to the New Jersey Department of Military Veterans' Affairs (department) for programs to benefit combat veterans.

The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) is required to annually certify the average cost of producing, issuing, 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 provides that no State or other public funds may be used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the Combat Action Ribbon license plate program. The bill authorizes the department to receive funds, in an amount not to exceed a total of \$25,000, from private sources to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of the license plates and for computer programming changes which may be necessary to implement the program.

The provisions of the bill are to remain inoperative until the commission receives the initial funds. The bill expires on the last day of the 12th month after enactment if the funds to initiate the license plate program are not received by that date.