

ASSEMBLY, No. 493

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JAY WEBBER

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Hunterdon, Somerset and Warren)

Assemblywoman SHAVONDA E. SUMTER

District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)

Co-Sponsored by:

**Assemblymen Johnson, S.Kean, DeAngelo, Chiaravalloti, Assemblywoman
Dunn, Assemblymen Giblin, Freiman, Conaway and Assemblywoman
DiMaso**

SYNOPSIS

Creates special license plates supporting Autism Awareness.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 10/22/2020)

1 **AN ACT** creating special license plates supporting Autism
2 Awareness and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the
3 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 special license
10 plates supporting Autism Awareness for any motor vehicle owned
11 or leased and registered in the State. In addition to the registration
12 number and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed
13 by law, the license plate shall display appropriate words or a slogan
14 supporting Autism Awareness. The chief administrator shall select
15 the design and color scheme, in consultation with the Governor's
16 Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism, established
17 in the Department of Health, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1999,
18 c.105 (C.30:6D-59). Autism Awareness license plates shall be
19 subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised
20 Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

21 b. Application for issuance of Autism Awareness license plates
22 shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a manner
23 prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be deemed
24 complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50,
25 payable to the commission, which shall be in addition to the fees
26 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle.
27 The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the
28 year of issuance of the Autism Awareness license plate, a \$10 fee
29 for the license plate in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by
30 law for the registration of a motor vehicle. The additional fees
31 required by this subsection shall be deposited in the "Autism
32 Awareness License Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c. of
33 this section.

34 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
35 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Autism Awareness License
36 Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount
37 collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to subsection
38 b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the
39 commission for administrative costs pursuant to subsection d. of
40 this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be appropriated
41 annually to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New
42 Jersey, to be expended in consultation with the Governor's Council
43 for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism. Monies deposited
44 in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public
45 depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236
46 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in securities
47 approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned on
48 monies deposited in the fund, and any monies which may be

1 appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the
2 fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set
3 forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
4 this bill).

5 d. Prior to the deposit into the fund of the additional fees
6 collected pursuant to subsection b. of this section, amounts thereof
7 as are necessary shall be used to reimburse the commission for all
8 costs reasonably and actually incurred, as stipulated by the chief
9 administrator, for:

10 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
11 availability of the Autism Awareness license plates; and

12 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
13 necessary to implement the Autism Awareness license plate
14 program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
15 Legislature as this bill).

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

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

29 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
30 opportunity to obtain Autism Awareness license plates by
31 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of
32 the commission. The Governor's Council for Medical Research and
33 Treatment of Autism, and any other individual or entity designated
34 by the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of
35 Autism, may publicize the availability of Autism Awareness license
36 plates in any manner the council deems appropriate.

37 f. The chief administrator and the Governor's Council for
38 Medical Research and Treatment of Autism shall develop and enter
39 into a memorandum of agreement setting forth the procedures to be
40 followed in carrying out their respective responsibilities under
41 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

42 g. The Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment
43 of Autism shall appoint a representative who shall act as a liaison
44 between the organization and the commission. The liaison shall
45 represent the Governor's Council for Medical Research and
46 Treatment of Autism in any and all communications with the
47 commission regarding the Autism Awareness license plates

1 established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
2 as this bill).

3

4 2. a. No State or other public funds shall be used by the
5 commission for the initial cost of:

6 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
7 availability of Autism Awareness license plates; or

8 (2) any computer programming changes which may be
9 necessary to implement the Autism Awareness license plate
10 program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
11 Legislature as this bill).

12 b. A representative designated by the Governor's Council for
13 Medical Research and Treatment of Autism shall contribute monies
14 in an amount to be determined by the chief administrator, not to
15 exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to offset the initial costs
16 incurred by the commission for designing, producing, issuing, and
17 publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness license plates, and
18 any computer programming which may be necessary to implement
19 the program. To further offset the initial costs incurred by the
20 commission for the Autism Awareness license plates authorized by
21 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
22 other concerned organizations and individual donors may contribute
23 monies to the Governor's Council for Medical Research and
24 Treatment of Autism, or the individual or entity designated by the
25 Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism,
26 for this purpose. Any amount remaining after the payment of the
27 initial costs shall be deposited in the "Autism Awareness License
28 Plate Fund" established pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of
29 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

30 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
31 issuing, or publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness license
32 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until the
33 following requirements have been met:

34 (1) The individual or entity designated by the Governor's
35 Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism has
36 provided the commission with the money necessary, as determined
37 by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
38 to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing
39 the Autism Awareness license plate program; and

40 (2) The liaison appointed by the Governor's Council for Medical
41 Research and Treatment of Autism pursuant to subsection g. of
42 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
43 as this bill) has provided the commission with not less than 500
44 completed applications for Autism Awareness license plates. These
45 applications shall constitute the initial order for Autism Awareness
46 license plates and shall be accompanied by a fee representing the
47 total cost of the initial order. The fee shall be determined by
48 multiplying the number of sets of license plates being ordered by

1 the applicable initial fee for each set of license plates as set forth in
2 subsection b. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
3 the Legislature as this bill).

4
5 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
6 inoperative until the first day of the 13th month following the date
7 on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
8 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
9 the Legislature as this bill) have been satisfied. The chief
10 administrator may take anticipatory actions in advance of that date
11 as may be necessary for the timely implementation of P.L. ,
12 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). P.L. ,
13 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) shall
14 expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
15 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
16 the Legislature as this bill) are not satisfied by the last day of the
17 12th month following enactment.

18 19 20 STATEMENT

21
22 This bill authorizes the creation of a special license plate
23 supporting Autism Awareness. The design of the Autism
24 Awareness license plate is to be chosen by the Chief Administrator
25 (chief administrator) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
26 (commission), in consultation with the Governor's Council for
27 Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (council).

28 In addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the
29 registration of a motor vehicle, there is an application fee of \$50
30 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the Autism Awareness license
31 plates. The additional fees, after the deduction of the cost of
32 designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates
33 and of any computer programming changes that are necessary to
34 implement the license plate program, will be deposited into a
35 special non-lapsing fund known as the "Autism Awareness License
36 Plate Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to be annually
37 appropriated to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New
38 Jersey, to be expended in consultation with the council. .

39 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
40 average cost per license plate in producing, issuing, renewing, and
41 publicizing the Autism Awareness license plates. If the average
42 cost exceeds \$50 for two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
43 administrator may discontinue the license plate program.

44 The bill provides that no State or other public funds may be used
45 by the commission for the initial cost of designing, producing,
46 issuing, and publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness
47 license plates or any computer programming changes which may be

1 necessary to implement the Autism Awareness license plate
2 program.

3 The bill also requires that an individual or entity designated by
4 the council contribute monies in an amount to be determined by the
5 chief administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to
6 offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for designing,
7 producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of Autism
8 Awareness license plates, and any computer programming which
9 may be necessary to implement the program.

10 The bill prohibits the commission from designing, producing,
11 issuing, or publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness license
12 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until: (1) an
13 individual or entity designated by the council has provided the
14 commission with the money necessary to offset the initial costs
15 incurred by the commission in establishing the Autism Awareness
16 license plate program; and (2) the council, or its designee, has
17 provided the commission with a minimum of 500 completed
18 applications for Autism Awareness license plates, upon the
19 availability for purchase of those license plates.

20 The chief administrator is responsible for publicizing the
21 availability of the license plates on the commission's website. The
22 council, or any individual or entity designated by the council, may
23 also publicize the availability of Autism Awareness license plates in
24 any manner the council deems appropriate.

25 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the
26 appropriate applications and fees required to offset the initial costs
27 incurred by the commission are provided by an individual or entity
28 designated by the council. The bill expires after 12 months if
29 sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial costs are not
30 received.