

ASSEMBLY, No. 1701

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes special license plates for fire police officers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning special license plates and supplementing
2 chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. Upon the application of any person who is a member of a
8 fire department in this State and is a qualified fire police officer
9 pursuant to R.S.15:8-4, the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
10 Motor Vehicle Commission may issue for a motor vehicle owned or
11 leased by the person a set of special license plates bearing a Maltese
12 Cross and the words "Fire Police," in addition to the other markings
13 or identification required by law. The design and color of the plates
14 shall be approved by the chief administrator.

15 b. The special license plates authorized by P.L. , c. (C.)
16 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) may be issued upon
17 proof, satisfactory to the chief administrator, that the applicant is a
18 bona fide member of a fire department and is a qualified fire police
19 officer pursuant to R.S.15:8-4. The fee for such license plates shall
20 be \$15 in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the
21 registration of such motor vehicle.

22 c. A person who has been issued a set of fire police license
23 plates who resigns, is removed, or otherwise no longer qualifies as a
24 fire police officer pursuant to R.S.15:8-4 shall return the special
25 plates to the commission within 15 days of resigning, being
26 removed, or no longer qualifying to serve as a fire police officer.

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28 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
29 month after enactment.

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STATEMENT

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34 This bill authorizes the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
35 (commission) to issue special license plates to fire police officers.
36 The special plates are to bear a Maltese Cross and the words "Fire
37 Police," in addition to the other markings or identification required
38 by law. Under the bill, the fee for the license plates is \$15. The bill
39 also requires a person who has been issued fire police license plates
40 who resigns, is removed, or otherwise no longer qualifies as a fire
41 police officer to return the license plate to the commission within
42 15 days of resigning, being removed, or no longer qualifying to
43 serve as a fire police officer.

44 Under current law, fire police officers are members of fire
45 companies who have been qualified through a basic fire police
46 training course and have pledged to justly, impartially, and
47 faithfully discharge their duties. The duties of a fire police officer
48 include: protecting property and its contents; establishing and

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1 maintaining fire lines; performing necessary traffic duties; and, in
2 the absence of investigating authorities, investigating all causes of
3 fires and preserving all evidence pertaining to questionable fires
4 and turning the evidence over to the proper investigating
5 authorities.

6 It is the intent of the sponsor that the special license plates will
7 make fire police officers recognizable to other authorities on the
8 roadways and will expedite their arrival in emergency situations.