

ASSEMBLY, No. 2942

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman PARKER SPACE
District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of Combat Action Ribbon license plate.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** authorizing the creation of Combat Action Ribbon license
2 plates and supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
8 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue Combat Action
9 Ribbon license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and
10 registered in this State. In addition to the registration number and
11 other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the
12 license plate shall display the words "Combat Action Ribbon" and
13 depict the Combat Action Ribbon emblem. The chief administrator,
14 in consultation with the Adjutant General of the New Jersey
15 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall select the
16 design of the Combat Action Ribbon license plates. The Combat
17 Action Ribbon license plates shall be subject to the provisions of
18 chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter
19 otherwise specifically provided.

20 b. Application for issuance of Combat Action Ribbon license
21 plates shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a
22 manner prescribed by the chief administrator. The application shall
23 include proof satisfactory to the chief administrator that the
24 applicant is a holder of the Combat Action Ribbon as certified on
25 the applicant's DD-214 form or on a Certificate of Release or
26 Discharge from Active Duty. In order to be deemed complete, an
27 application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50, payable to the
28 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, which shall be in addition
29 to the fee otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of motor
30 vehicles. The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent
31 to the year of issuance of the Combat Action Ribbon license plate, a
32 \$10 fee for the license plate in addition to the fee otherwise
33 prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle. The
34 additional fees required by this subsection shall be deposited in the
35 "Combat Action Ribbon License Plate Fund" created pursuant to
36 subsection c. of this section.

37 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
38 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Combat Action Ribbon
39 License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the
40 amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to
41 subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to
42 reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to
43 subsection d. of this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
44 appropriated annually to the New Jersey Department of Military
45 and Veterans' Affairs and shall be used to support programs
46 benefiting combat veterans. Monies deposited in the fund shall be

1 held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories as defined
2 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be
3 invested or reinvested in securities approved by the State Treasurer.
4 Interest or other income earned on monies deposited into the fund,
5 and any monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become
6 available for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and
7 deposited in the fund for use as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.)
8 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

9 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant
10 to subsection b. of this section into the "Combat Action Ribbon
11 License Plate Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used
12 to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably and actually
13 incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

14 (1) producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
15 availability of the Combat Action Ribbon license plates; and

16 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
17 necessary to implement the Combat Action Ribbon license plate
18 program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
19 Legislature as this bill), in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

20 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State
21 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the
22 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,
23 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the Combat
24 Action Ribbon license plates. The annual certification of the
25 average cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget
26 Oversight Committee, or its successor.

27 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by
28 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
29 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee
30 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal
31 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of
32 Combat Action Ribbon license plates.

33 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
34 opportunity to obtain Combat Action Ribbon license plates by
35 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of
36 the commission. The New Jersey Department of Military and
37 Veterans' Affairs, and any other individual or entity designated by
38 the department, may publicize the availability of the Combat Action
39 Ribbon license plates in any manner that the department deems
40 appropriate.

41 f. The chief administrator and adjutant general shall develop
42 and enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement
43 setting forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their
44 respective responsibilities under P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
45 before the Legislature as this bill).

46 g. The adjutant general shall appoint a representative who shall
47 act as a liaison between the New Jersey Department of Military and
48 Veterans' Affairs and the commission. The liaison shall represent

1 the department in any and all communications with the commission
2 regarding the Combat Action Ribbon license plates established by
3 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4
5 2. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the
6 commission for the initial cost of:

7 (1) producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of
8 Combat Action Ribbon license plates; or

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

13 b. An individual or entity designated by the New Jersey
14 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall contribute non-
15 public monies in an amount to be determined by the chief
16 administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to offset
17 the initial costs incurred by the commission for producing, issuing,
18 and publicizing the availability of Combat Action Ribbon license
19 plates, and any computer programming which may be necessary to
20 implement the program. Concerned organizations and individual
21 donors may contribute monies to the department to be used to offset
22 the initial costs incurred by the commission for the Combat Action
23 Ribbon license plates authorized by P.L. , c. (C.)
24 (pending before the Legislature as this bill). Any amount remaining
25 after the payment of the initial cost shall be deposited in the
26 "Combat Action Ribbon License Plate Fund" established pursuant
27 to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
28 before the Legislature as this bill).

29 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
30 issuing, or publicizing the availability of the Combat Action Ribbon
31 license plates, or making any necessary computer programming
32 changes until the individual or entity designated by the New Jersey
33 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs has provided the
34 commission with the money necessary, as determined by the chief
35 administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to offset the
36 initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing the Combat
37 Action Ribbon license plate program.

38
39 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
40 inoperative until the first day of the thirteenth month following the
41 date on which the condition set forth in subsection c. of section 2 of
42 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
43 has been satisfied. The chief administrator may take such
44 anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be necessary for the
45 timely implementation of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
46 Legislature as this bill). P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
47 Legislature as this bill) shall expire if the condition set forth in
48 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before

1 the Legislature as this bill) is not satisfied by the last day of the
2 12th month following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill authorizes special Combat Action Ribbon license plates.
8 The license plate is to display the words "Combat Action Ribbon"
9 and the Combat Action Ribbon emblem. An application to obtain
10 Combat Action Ribbon license plates is to include satisfactory proof
11 that the applicant received the Combat Action Ribbon. In addition
12 to the required motor vehicle registration fees, there is an
13 application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the
14 Combat Action Ribbon license plates. After deducting the cost of
15 producing and publicizing the plates, the additional fees collected
16 will be deposited into the "Combat Action Ribbon License Fund"
17 and the funds will be appropriated annually to the New Jersey
18 Department of Military Veterans' Affairs (department) for
19 programs to benefit combat veterans.

20 The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
21 Commission (commission) is required to annually certify the
22 average cost of producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability
23 of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per plate exceeds
24 \$50, the chief administrator may discontinue the license plate
25 program.

26 The bill provides that no State or other public funds may be used
27 by the commission for the initial cost to implement the Combat
28 Action Ribbon license plate program. The bill authorizes the
29 department to receive funds, in an amount not to exceed a total of
30 \$25,000, from private sources to be used to offset the initial costs
31 incurred by the commission for designing, producing, issuing, and
32 publicizing the availability of the license plates.

33 The provisions of the bill are to remain inoperative until the
34 commission receives the initial funds. The bill will expire if the
35 funds to initiate the license plate program are not received within 12
36 months of the effective date.

37 The Combat Action Ribbon was approved for creation by the
38 Secretary of the Navy on February 17, 1969. The honor was
39 created to provide special recognition to any member of the Navy,
40 Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, when the Coast Guard was under
41 the control of the Navy, who actively participated in ground or
42 surface combat.