

ASSEMBLY, No. 3153

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:
Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY
District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes issuance of West Virginia University alumni license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** authorizing the issuance of West Virginia University
2 alumni license plates and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of
3 the 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 West Virginia
10 University alumni license plates for any motor vehicle owned or
11 leased and registered in this State. In addition to the registration
12 number and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed
13 by law, the license plates shall display appropriate words or a
14 slogan and emblem honoring West Virginia University. The chief
15 administrator shall, in consultation with the West Virginia
16 University Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter President, select
17 the design and color scheme of the West Virginia University alumni
18 license plates. The West Virginia University alumni license plates
19 shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the
20 Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise provided.

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

34 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
35 non-lapsing fund to be known as the “West Virginia University
36 License Plate Fund.” There shall be deposited in the fund the
37 amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to
38 subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to
39 reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to
40 subsection d. of this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
41 appropriated annually to the West Virginia University Alumni
42 Association to be used to support the organization’s mission and
43 programs. Monies deposited in the fund shall be held in interest-
44 bearing accounts in public depositories as defined pursuant to
45 section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or
46 reinvested in securities approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or
47 other income earned on monies deposited into the fund, and any
48 monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become available

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

4 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant
5 to subsection b. of this section into the “West Virginia University
6 License Plate Fund,” amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used
7 to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably and actually
8 incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator for:

9 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
10 availability of the West Virginia University alumni license plates;
11 and

12 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
13 necessary to implement the West Virginia University alumni license
14 plate program in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

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

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

28 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
29 opportunity to obtain West Virginia University alumni license
30 plates by publicizing the availability of the license plates on the
31 commission’s website. The West Virginia University Southern
32 New Jersey Alumni Chapter President and any other individual or
33 entity designated by the West Virginia University Southern New
34 Jersey Alumni Chapter, may publicize the availability of the West
35 Virginia University alumni license plates in any manner that the
36 West Virginia University Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter
37 deems appropriate.

38 f. The chief administrator and the West Virginia University
39 Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter President shall develop and
40 enter into a memorandum of agreement setting forth the procedures
41 to be followed in carrying out their respective responsibilities under
42 P.L. , c., (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43 g. The West Virginia University Southern New Jersey Alumni
44 Chapter President shall appoint a representative who shall act as a
45 liaison between the West Virginia University Southern New Jersey
46 Alumni Chapter and the commission. The liaison shall represent
47 the West Virginia University Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter
48 in any and all communications with the commission regarding the

1 West Virginia University alumni license plates established by
2 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

3

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

6 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
7 availability of West Virginia University alumni license plates; or

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

12 b. The West Virginia University Southern New Jersey Alumni
13 Chapter or an individual or entity designated by the West Virginia
14 University Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter, shall contribute
15 non-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 designing,
18 producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of West Virginia
19 University alumni license plates, and any computer programming
20 which may be necessary to implement the program. Concerned
21 organizations and individual donors may contribute monies to the
22 West Virginia University Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter to
23 be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for the
24 West Virginia University alumni license plates authorized by
25 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

26 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
27 issuing, or publicizing the availability of West Virginia University
28 alumni license plates, or making any necessary programming
29 changes, until the following requirements have been met:

30 (1) The West Virginia University Southern New Jersey Alumni
31 Chapter or an individual or entity designated by the West Virginia
32 University Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter, has provided the
33 commission with the non-public monies necessary, as determined
34 by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
35 to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing
36 the West Virginia University alumni license plate program; and

37 (2) The liaison appointed by the West Virginia University
38 Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter President pursuant to
39 subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
40 the Legislature as this bill) has provided the commission with not
41 less than 500 completed applications for West Virginia University
42 alumni license plates. These applications shall constitute the initial
43 order for West Virginia University alumni license plates and shall
44 be accompanied by a fee representing the total cost of the initial
45 order. The fee shall be determined by multiplying the number of
46 sets of license plates being ordered by the applicable initial fee for
47 each set of license plates as set forth in subsection b. of section 1 of
48 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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

10
11
12 STATEMENT

13
14 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
15 Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to issue special West
16 Virginia University alumni license plates.

17 West Virginia University (WVU) was founded in 1867 as a land-
18 grant institution. WVU is rated as an R1, or very high research
19 activity, institution, which is the most elite category for research-
20 focused schools alongside such institutions as Princeton University
21 and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. WVU has
22 awarded degrees to 2,204 graduates from New Jersey from 2011 to
23 2018. New Jersey has four alumni chapters located in the State: 1)
24 the Jersey Shore Chapter; 2) the NY/NJ Metro Chapter; 3) the
25 Southern New Jersey Chapter; and 4) the Northern New Jersey
26 Chapter.

27 The bill provides that the design of the WVU alumni license
28 plate is to display appropriate words or a slogan and an emblem
29 honoring WVU. The chief administrator, in consultation with the
30 WVU Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter President, is to select
31 the design and color scheme of the WVU alumni license plates.

32 In addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the
33 registration of a motor vehicle, there is an application fee of \$50
34 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the WVU alumni license
35 plates. After the deduction of the cost of designing, producing,
36 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates and of any computer
37 programming changes that are necessary to implement the license
38 plate program, additional fees will be deposited into a special non-
39 lapsing fund known as the "West Virginia University License Plate
40 Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to be annually appropriated to
41 the West Virginia University Alumni Association to be used to
42 support the organization's mission and programs.

43 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
44 average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
45 availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per
46 plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
47 administrator may discontinue the WVU alumni license plate
48 program. The bill also requires that the West Virginia University

A3153 MURPHY

6

1 Southern New Jersey Alumni Chapter President appoint a liaison to
2 represent the West Virginia University Southern New Jersey
3 Alumni Chapter (Southern NJ Chapter) in all communications with
4 the commission regarding the WVU alumni license plates.

5 The bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be
6 used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the WVU
7 alumni license plate program. The bill requires the Southern NJ
8 Chapter or an individual or entity designated by the Southern NJ
9 Chapter to contribute non-public monies, not to exceed \$25,000, to
10 offset the initial costs to design, produce, issue, and publicize the
11 license plates and for computer programming changes which may
12 be necessary to implement the program. The bill authorizes the
13 Southern NJ Chapter to receive funds from private sources to be
14 used to offset the initial costs.

15 The chief administrator is not required to design, produce, issue,
16 or publicize the availability of the WVU alumni license plates,
17 until: (1) the Southern NJ Chapter or the individual or entity
18 designated by the Southern NJ Chapter has provided the
19 commission with the money necessary to offset the initial costs
20 incurred by the commission in establishing the WVU alumni license
21 plate program; and (2) the Southern NJ Chapter liaison has provided
22 the commission with a minimum of 500 completed applications for
23 the WVU alumni license plates.

24 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first
25 day of the 13th month after the appropriate applications and fees
26 required to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission are
27 provided by the Southern NJ Chapter liaison. The bill expires on
28 the last day of the 12th month if sufficient applications and fees to
29 offset the initial costs are not received by that date.