

ASSEMBLY, No. 3408

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of “Sons of the American Legion” license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ACT** concerning the creation of special Sons of the American
2 Legion license plates and supplementing Title 39 of the Revised
3 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 Sons of the
10 American Legion license plates for any motor vehicle owned or
11 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 and an emblem representative of the Sons of the American Legion.
15 The chief administrator shall select the design, including an emblem
16 and color scheme, in consultation with the Sons of the American
17 Legion Detachment of New Jersey. Sons of the American Legion
18 license plates shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title
19 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise
20 specifically provided.

21 b. Application for issuance of Sons of the American Legion
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 commission, which shall be in addition to the
26 fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor
27 vehicle.

28 The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the
29 year of issuance of the Sons of the American Legion license plates,
30 a \$10 fee for the license plates in addition to the fees otherwise
31 prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle. The
32 additional fees required by this subsection shall be deposited in the
33 “Sons of the American Legion License Plate Fund” created pursuant
34 to subsection c. of this section.

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

1 or otherwise become available for the purposes of the fund, shall be
2 credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set forth in this
3 section.

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

9 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
10 availability of the Sons of the American Legion license plates; and

11 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
12 necessary to implement the Sons of the American Legion license
13 plate program in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

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

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

27 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
28 opportunity to obtain Sons of the American Legion license plates by
29 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of
30 the commission. The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of
31 New Jersey, and any other individual or entity designated by the
32 organization, may publicize the availability of the license plates in
33 any manner the organization deems appropriate.

34 f. The chief administrator and the Detachment Commander of
35 the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey shall
36 develop and enter into a memorandum of agreement setting forth
37 the procedures to be followed in carrying out their respective
38 responsibilities under P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
39 Legislature as this bill).

40 g. The Detachment Commander of the Sons of the American
41 Legion Detachment of New Jersey shall appoint a representative
42 who shall act as a liaison between the organization and the
43 commission. The liaison shall represent the organization in any and
44 all communications with the commission regarding the license
45 plates established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
46 Legislature as this bill).

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

3 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
4 availability of Sons of the American Legion license plates; or

5 (2) any computer programming changes which may be
6 necessary to implement the Sons of the American Legion license
7 plate program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
8 the Legislature as this bill).

9 b. The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New
10 Jersey, or an individual or entity designated by the organization,
11 shall contribute non-public monies in an amount to be determined
12 by the chief administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be
13 used to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for
14 designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of
15 Sons of the American Legion license plates, and any computer
16 programming which may be necessary to implement the program.
17 Concerned organizations and individual donors may contribute
18 monies to the organization to be used to offset the initial costs
19 incurred by the commission for the Sons of the American Legion
20 license plates authorized by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
21 the Legislature as this bill). Any amount remaining after the
22 payment of the initial cost shall be deposited in the “Sons of the
23 American Legion License Plate Fund” established pursuant to
24 subsection c. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
25 the Legislature as this bill).

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

30 (1) The Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New
31 Jersey, or the individual or entity designated by the organization,
32 has provided the commission with the money necessary, as
33 determined by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b. of
34 this section, to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in
35 establishing the Sons of the American Legion license plate
36 program; and

37 (2) The liaison appointed by the Detachment Commander of the
38 Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey pursuant
39 to subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending
40 before the Legislature as this bill) has provided the commission
41 with not less than 500 completed applications for Sons of the
42 American Legion license plates. These applications shall constitute
43 the initial order for Sons of the American Legion license plates and
44 shall be accompanied by a fee representing the total cost of the
45 initial order. The fee shall be determined by multiplying the
46 number of sets of license plates being ordered by the applicable

1 initial fee for each set of license plates as set forth in subsection b.
2 of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
3 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 such anticipatory actions in advance of that
11 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of
12 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
13 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
14 shall 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
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20 STATEMENT

21
22 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator (chief administrator)
23 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to issue Sons
24 of the American Legion license plates. The design of the license
25 plate is to be chosen by the chief administrator, in consultation with
26 the Sons of the American Legion Detachment of New Jersey
27 (SALNJ).

28 In addition to the required motor vehicle registration fees, there
29 is an application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the
30 license plates. After deducting the costs to implement the plates,
31 the additional fees collected are to be deposited into the "Sons of
32 the American Legion License Plate Fund." The proceeds of the
33 fund are to be appropriated annually to the SALNJ.

34 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
35 average cost of producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability
36 of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per plate exceeds
37 \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief administrator may
38 discontinue the license plate program. The bill also requires that
39 the Detachment Commander of the SALNJ appoint a liaison to
40 represent the SALNJ in all communications with the MVC
41 regarding the license plates.

42 The bill provides that State or other public funds may not be
43 used by the MVC for the initial cost to implement the license plate
44 program. The bill requires the SALNJ, or an individual or entity
45 designated by the SALNJ, to contribute non-public monies, not to
46 exceed \$25,000, to offset the initial costs to design, produce, issue,
47 and publicize the license plates and for any computer programming
48 necessary to implement the program. The bill authorizes the

1 SALNJ to receive funds from private sources to be used to offset
2 the initial costs.

3 The chief administrator is not required to design, produce, issue,
4 or publicize the availability of the license plates, or make any
5 necessary programming changes, until: (1) the SALNJ, or an
6 individual or entity designated by the SALNJ, has provided the
7 MVC with the money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred
8 by the MVC in establishing the license plate program; and (2) the
9 SALNJ, or its designee, has provided the MVC with a minimum of
10 500 completed applications for the license plates, upon the
11 availability for purchase of those license plates.

12 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the
13 appropriate applications and fees required to offset the initial costs
14 incurred by the MVC are provided by the SALNJ or its designee.
15 The bill expires after 12 months if sufficient applications and fees
16 to offset the initial costs are not received.

17 The Sons of the American Legion is a program of the American
18 Legion that was established in 1932. With 152 squadrons located in
19 American Legion Posts throughout New Jersey, members of the
20 SALNJ work to achieve the goals of the American Legion, which
21 include service to the community, State, and the nation through
22 service to United States veterans.