

ASSEMBLY, No. 5542

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman RYAN E. PETERS

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

Assemblywoman AURA K. DUNN

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of US Navy Veteran license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/5/2021)

1 **AN ACT** authorizing the creation of United States Navy Veteran
2 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 United States
10 Navy Veteran license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased
11 and registered in this State. In addition to the registration number
12 and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law,
13 the license plates shall display the words, “U.S. Navy Retired”
14 along with an image or other pictorial designation of the Navy
15 insignia. The chief administrator shall, in consultation with
16 Adjutant General of the Department of Military and Veterans'
17 Affairs, select the design and color scheme of the United States
18 Navy Veteran license plates. The United States Navy Veteran
19 license plates shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title
20 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise
21 provided.

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

40 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
41 non-lapsing fund to be known as the “United States Navy Veteran
42 License Plate Fund.” There shall be deposited in the fund the
43 amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to
44 subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to
45 reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to
46 subsection d. of this section. The monies deposited in the fund shall
47 be appropriated annually to the Department of Military and

1 Veteran's Affairs and shall be used to support programs benefiting
2 Navy veterans.

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

12 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant
13 to subsection b. of this section into the "United States Navy Veteran
14 License Plate Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used
15 to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably and actually
16 incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator for:

17 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
18 availability of the United States Navy Veteran license plates; and

19 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
20 necessary to implement the United States Navy Veteran license
21 plate program in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

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

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

35 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
36 opportunity to obtain United States Navy Veteran license plates by
37 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the
38 commission's website. The Department of Military and Veterans'
39 Affairs and any other individual or entity designated by the
40 department, may publicize the availability of the United States
41 Navy Veteran license plates in any manner that the department
42 deems appropriate.

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

1 g. The adjutant general shall appoint a representative who shall
2 act as a liaison between the Department of Military and Veterans'
3 Affairs and the commission. The liaison shall represent the
4 department in any and all communications with the commission
5 regarding the United States Navy Veteran license plates established
6 by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
7 bill).

8
9 2. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the commission
10 for the initial cost of:

11 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability
12 of United States Navy Veteran license plates; or

13 (2) any computer programming changes which may be necessary
14 to implement the United States Navy Veteran license plate program
15 established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
16 Legislature as this bill).

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

33 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
34 issuing, or publicizing the availability of United States Navy
35 Veteran license plates, or making any necessary programming
36 changes, until the following requirements have been met:

37 (1) an individual or entity designated by the Department of
38 Military and Veterans' Affairs, has provided the commission with
39 the non-public monies necessary, as determined by the chief
40 administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to offset the
41 initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing the United
42 States Navy Veteran license plate program; and

43 (2) the liaison appointed by the department pursuant to
44 subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
45 the Legislature as this bill) has provided the commission with not
46 less than 500 completed applications for United States Navy
47 Veteran license plates. These applications shall constitute the
48 initial order for United States Navy Veteran license plates and shall

1 be accompanied by a fee representing the total cost of the initial
2 order. The fee shall be determined by multiplying the number of
3 sets of license plates being ordered by the applicable initial fee for
4 each set of license plates as set forth in subsection b. of section 1 of
5 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
6

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

17 18 STATEMENT 19

20 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
21 Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to issue special United
22 States Navy Veteran license plates to honorably discharged United
23 States Navy veterans.

24 The bill provides that the design of the United States Navy
25 Veteran license plate is to display the words, "U.S. Navy Retired"
26 along with an image or other pictorial designation of Navy insignia.
27 The chief administrator, in consultation with the Adjutant General
28 of the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (department), is
29 to select the design and color scheme of the United States Navy
30 Veteran license plates.

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

42 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
43 average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
44 availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per
45 plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
46 administrator may discontinue the license plate program. The bill
47 also requires that the adjutant general appoint a liaison to represent

1 the department in all communications with the commission
2 regarding the United States Navy Veteran license plates.

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

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

21 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first
22 day of the 13th month after the appropriate applications and fees
23 required to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission are
24 provided to the commission. The bill expires on the last day of the
25 12th month after enactment if sufficient applications and fees to
26 offset the initial costs are not received by that date.