

ASSEMBLY, No. 5638

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 12, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SERENA DIMASO

District 13 (Monmouth)

Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY

District 7 (Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of Twin Lights license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/12/2021)

1 **AN ACT** authorizing the creation and issuance of a license plate to
2 celebrate the Twin Lights in the Highlands and supplementing
3 Title 39 of 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 a license plate to
10 celebrate the Twin Lights in the Highlands for any motor vehicle
11 owned or leased and registered in this State. In addition to the
12 registration number and other markings or identification otherwise
13 prescribed by law, the license plates shall display an image of the
14 Twin Lights in the Highlands with “Twin Lights” above and
15 “Highlands, New Jersey” below the image. The chief administrator
16 shall select the design and color scheme of the Twin Lights in the
17 Highlands celebration license plates in consultation with the
18 Director of the Division of Parks and Forestry in the Department of
19 Environmental Protection and in conjunction with the Twin Lights
20 Historical Society. The Twin Lights in the Highlands celebration
21 license plates shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title
22 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise
23 provided.

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

38 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
39 non-lapsing fund to be known as the “Twin Lights in the Highlands
40 Celebration License Plate Fund.” There shall be deposited in the
41 fund the amount collected from all license plate fees collected
42 pursuant to subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary
43 to reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to
44 subsection d. of this section. The monies deposited in the fund shall
45 be appropriated annually to the Division of Parks and Forestry in
46 the Department of Environmental Protection and shall be used to
47 provide grant funding to organizations that work to protect and

1 preserve important State and national landmarks, such as the Twin
2 Lights.

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 “Twin Lights in the
14 Highlands Celebration License Plate Fund,” amounts thereof as are
15 necessary shall be used to reimburse the commission for all costs
16 reasonably and actually incurred, as stipulated by the chief
17 administrator for:

18 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
19 availability of the Twin Lights in the Highlands celebration license
20 plates; and

21 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
22 necessary to implement the Twin Lights in the Highlands
23 celebration license plate program in an amount not to exceed
24 \$150,000.

25 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State
26 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the
27 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,
28 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the Twin
29 Lights in the Highlands celebration license plates. The annual
30 certification of the average cost per license plate shall be approved
31 by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor.

32 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by
33 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
34 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee
35 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal
36 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of the
37 Twin Lights in the Highlands celebration license plates.

38 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
39 opportunity to obtain the Twin Lights in the Highlands celebration
40 license plates by publicizing the availability of the license plates on
41 the commission’s website. The Director of the Division of Parks
42 and Forestry in the Department of Environmental Protection, the
43 Twin Lights Historical Society, and any other individual or entity
44 designated by the division, may publicize the availability of the
45 Twin Lights in the Highlands celebration license plates in any
46 manner that the division deems appropriate.

47 f. The chief administrator and the director shall develop and
48 enter into an inter-departmental memorandum of agreement setting

1 forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their respective
2 responsibilities under P.L. , c., (C.) (pending before the
3 Legislature as this bill).

4 g. The director shall appoint a representative who shall act as a
5 liaison between the Division of Parks and Forestry in the
6 Department of Environmental Protection and the commission. The
7 liaison shall represent the division in any and all communications
8 with the commission regarding the Twin Lights in the Highlands
9 celebration license plates established by P.L. , c. (C.)
10 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

11

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

14 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
15 availability of the Twin Lights in the Highlands celebration license
16 plates; or

17 (2) any computer programming changes which may be
18 necessary to implement the Twin Lights in the Highlands
19 celebration license plate program established by P.L. , c.
20 (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

21 b. An individual or entity designated by the director of the
22 Division of Parks and Forestry in the Department of Environmental
23 Protection shall contribute non-public monies in an amount to be
24 determined by the chief administrator, not to exceed a total of
25 \$25,000, to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the
26 commission for designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
27 availability of the Twin Lights in the Highlands celebration license
28 plates, and any computer programming which may be necessary to
29 implement the program. Concerned organizations and individual
30 donors may contribute monies to the division to be used to offset
31 the initial costs incurred by the commission for the Twin Lights in
32 the Highlands l celebration license plates authorized by
33 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
34 Any amount remaining after the payment of the initial cost shall be
35 deposited in the “Twin Lights in the Highlands Celebration License
36 Plate Fund” established pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of
37 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

38 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
39 issuing, or publicizing the availability of Twin Lights in the
40 Highlands plates, or making any necessary programming changes,
41 until the following requirements have been met:

42 (1) an individual or entity designated by the director of the
43 Division of Parks and Forestry in the Department of Environmental
44 Protection has provided the commission with the non-public monies
45 necessary, as determined by the chief administrator pursuant to
46 subsection b. of this section, to offset the initial costs incurred by
47 the commission in establishing the Twin Lights in the Highlands
48 plate program; and

1 (2) the liaison appointed by the director of the Division of
2 Parks and Forestry in the Department of Environmental Protection
3 pursuant to subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
4 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) has provided the
5 commission with not less than 500 completed applications for Twin
6 Lights in the Highlands celebration license plates. These
7 applications shall constitute the initial order for Twin Lights in the
8 Highlands celebration license plates and shall be accompanied by a
9 fee representing the total cost of the initial order. The fee shall be
10 determined by multiplying the number of sets of license plates
11 being ordered by the applicable initial fee for each set of license
12 plates as set forth in subsection b. of section 1 of P.L. ,
13 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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

24 25 26 STATEMENT

27
28 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
29 Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to issue special license
30 plates celebrating Twin Lights in the Highlands (the Twin Lights
31 celebration license plates).

32 The bill provides that the design of the Twin Lights celebration
33 license plate is to display an image of the Twin Lights in the
34 Highlands with "Twin Lights" above and "Highlands, New Jersey"
35 below the image. The chief administrator, in consultation with the
36 Director of the Division of Parks and Forestry in the Department of
37 Environmental Protection and in conjunction with the Twin Lights
38 Historical Society, is to select the design and color scheme of the
39 Twin Lights celebration license plates.

40 In addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the
41 registration of a motor vehicle, there is an application fee of \$50
42 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the Twin Lights celebration
43 license plates. After the deduction of the cost of designing,
44 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates and of any
45 computer programming changes that are necessary to implement the
46 license plate program, additional fees will be deposited into a
47 special non-lapsing fund known as the "Twin Lights in the
48 Highlands Celebration License Plate Fund." The proceeds of the

1 fund are to be annually appropriated to the Division of Parks and
2 Forestry in the Department of Environmental Protection (agency)
3 and are to be used to provide grant funding to organizations that
4 work to protect and preserve important State and national
5 landmarks, such as the Twin Lights.

6 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
7 average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
8 availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per
9 plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
10 administrator may discontinue the license plate program. The bill
11 also requires that the director of the Division of Parks and Forestry
12 in the Department of Environmental Protection appoint a liaison to
13 represent the agency in all communications with the commission
14 regarding the Twin Lights celebration license plates.

15 The bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be
16 used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the Twin
17 Lights celebration license plate program. The bill requires an
18 individual or entity designated by the agency to contribute non-
19 public monies, not to exceed \$25,000, to offset the initial costs to
20 design, produce, issue, and publicize the license plates and for
21 computer programming changes which may be necessary to
22 implement the program. The bill authorizes the agency to receive
23 funds from private sources to be used to offset the initial costs.

24 The commission is not required to design, produce, issue, or
25 publicize the availability of the license plates, until: (1) the
26 individual or entity designated by the agency has provided the
27 commission with the money necessary to offset the initial costs
28 incurred by the commission in establishing the license plate
29 program; and (2) the agency liaison has provided the commission
30 with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the license
31 plates.

32 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first
33 day of the 13th month after the appropriate applications and fees
34 required to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission are
35 provided to the commission. The bill expires on the last day of the
36 12th month after enactment if sufficient applications and fees to
37 offset the initial costs are not received by that date.