

SENATE, No. 1376

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS
District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)
Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN
District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes special Support Our Veterans license plate with proceeds supporting New Jersey homeless veteran's centers.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/13/2020)

1 **AN ACT** concerning special Support Our Veterans license plates and
2 supplementing chapter 3 of 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. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
8 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue “Support Our
9 Veterans” license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and
10 registered in the State. In addition to the registration number and
11 other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the
12 “Support Our Veterans” license plate shall display appropriate
13 words and an emblem honoring the nation’s veterans. The chief
14 administrator, in consultation with the New Jersey Department of
15 Military and Veterans Affairs, shall choose the design, including an
16 emblem and a color scheme. “Support Our Veterans” license plates
17 shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the
18 Revised Statutes, except as provided pursuant to P.L. ,
19 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

20

21 2. Application for issuance of a “Support Our Veterans” license
22 plate shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a
23 manner prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be deemed
24 complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50,
25 payable to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, which shall
26 be in addition to the fee otherwise prescribed by law for the
27 registration of motor vehicles. The chief administrator shall collect
28 annually, subsequent to the year of issuance of the “Support Our
29 Veterans” license plate, a \$10 fee for the license plate in addition to
30 the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor
31 vehicle. The additional fees required by this section shall be
32 deposited in the “Support Our Veterans License Plate Fund” created
33 pursuant to section 3 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
34 Legislature as this bill).

35

36 3. a. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a
37 special non-lapsing fund to be known as the “Support Our Veterans
38 License Plate Fund.” There shall be deposited into the fund the
39 amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to
40 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
41 as this bill), less the amounts necessary to reimburse the New Jersey
42 Motor Vehicle Commission for administrative costs pursuant to this
43 section. The monies in the fund shall be appropriated annually to
44 the Veterans Haven Council within the Division of Veterans'
45 Services in the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans'
46 Affairs, established pursuant to P.L.2011, c.170 (C.38A:3-47 et
47 seq.), to support services for the benefit of veterans housed at the
48 Veterans Haven facility and duties of the council. Monies

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

10 b. Prior to the deposit of license plate fees collected pursuant to
11 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
12 as this bill) into the fund, amounts thereof as are necessary shall be
13 used to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably and
14 actually incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator, for: (1)
15 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of
16 “Support Our Veterans” license plates; and (2) any computer
17 programming changes that may be initially necessary to implement
18 the “Support Our Veterans” license plate program established by
19 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
20 in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

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

28 d. In the event that the average cost per license plate as
29 certified by the chief administrator and approved by the Joint
30 Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, is greater than the
31 \$50 application fee established in section 2 of P.L. ,
32 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill) in two
33 consecutive fiscal years, the chief administrator may discontinue
34 the issuance of “Support Our Veterans” license plates.

35
36 4. a. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of
37 the opportunity to obtain Support Our Veterans license plates by
38 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of
39 the commission. The Veterans Haven Council, and any other
40 individual or entity designated by the Veterans Haven Council, may
41 publicize the availability of “Support Our Veterans” license plates
42 in any manner the Veterans Haven Council deems appropriate.

43 b. The chief administrator and the Veterans Haven Council
44 shall develop and enter into an interagency 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 c. The Veterans Haven Council shall appoint a representative
2 who shall act as a liaison between the council and the commission.
3 The liaison shall represent the Veterans Haven Council in any and
4 all communications with the commission regarding the “Support
5 Our Veterans” license plates established by P.L. , c. (C.)
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

7
8 5. a. No State or other public funds shall be used by the
9 commission for the initial cost of:

10 (1) producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of
11 “Support Our Veterans” license plates; or

12 (2) any computer programming changes which may be
13 necessary to implement the “Support Our Veterans” license plate
14 program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
15 Legislature as this bill).

16 b. The Veterans Haven Council or other individual or entity
17 designated by the Veterans Haven Council, shall contribute monies
18 in an amount to be determined by the chief administrator, not to
19 exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to offset the initial costs
20 incurred by the commission for producing, issuing, and publicizing
21 the availability of “Support Our Veterans” license plates, and any
22 computer programming which may be necessary to implement the
23 program. To further help offset the initial costs incurred by the
24 commission for the special license plates authorized by P.L. ,
25 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill), other
26 concerned organizations and individual donors may contribute
27 monies to the Veterans Haven Council, or an individual or entity
28 designated by the Veterans Haven Council, for this purpose. Any
29 amount remaining after the payment of the initial costs shall be
30 deposited in the “Support Our Veterans License Plate Fund”
31 established pursuant to subsection a. of section 3 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 “Support Our Veterans”
35 license plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until
36 the following requirements have been met:

37 (1) The Veterans Haven Council or the individual or entity
38 designated by the Veterans Haven Council, has provided the
39 commission with the money 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
42 “Support Our Veterans” license plate program; and

43 (2) The liaison appointed by the Veterans Haven Council
44 pursuant to subsection c. of section 4 of P.L. , c. (C.)
45 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) has provided the
46 commission with not less than 500 completed applications for
47 “Support Our Veterans” license plates. These applications shall
48 constitute the initial order for “Support Our Veterans” license plates

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

6
7 6. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
8 inoperable until the first day of the seventh month following the
9 date on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
10 subsection c. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
11 the Legislature as this bill) have been satisfied. The chief
12 administrator may take such anticipatory acts in advance of that
13 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of P.L. ,
14 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill). P.L. ,
15 c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)) shall
16 expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
17 subsection c. of section 5 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
18 the Legislature as this bill) are not satisfied by the last day of the
19 12th month following enactment.

20 21 22 STATEMENT

23
24 This bill authorizes a special Support Our Veterans license plate
25 with the proceeds supporting New Jersey homeless veterans'
26 centers, Veterans Haven, North and South.

27 The design of the license plate would be chosen by the Chief
28 Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission in
29 consultation with the Division of Veterans' Services in the New
30 Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs (NJDMAVA).

31 There is a \$50 initial fee, in addition to the registration fees
32 required by law, with a \$10 annual fee, in addition to the renewal
33 fees required by law. The additional fees, after the deduction of the
34 cost of producing and publicizing the plates, will be deposited into a
35 special non-lapsing fund known as the "Support Our Veterans
36 License Plate Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to be annually
37 appropriated to the Veterans Haven Council within the
38 (NJDMAVA).

39 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
40 average cost per license plate in producing, issuing, and publicizing
41 the Support Our Veterans license plates. If the average cost
42 exceeds \$50 for two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
43 administrator may discontinue the license plate program.

44 The bill provides that no State or other public funds may be used
45 by the commission for the initial cost of producing, issuing, and
46 publicizing the availability of Support Our Veterans license plates
47 or any computer programming changes which may be necessary to
48 implement the Support Our Veterans license plate program.

1 The bill also requires that the Veterans Haven Council or other
2 individual or entity designated by the Veterans Haven Council,
3 contribute monies in an amount to be determined by the chief
4 administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to offset
5 the initial costs incurred by the commission for producing, issuing,
6 and publicizing the availability of Support Our Veterans license
7 plates, and any computer programming which may be necessary to
8 implement the program.

9 The bill prohibits the commission from designing, producing,
10 issuing, or publicizing the availability of Support Our Veterans
11 license plates, or making any necessary programming changes,
12 until: (1) the Veterans Haven Council, or its designee, has provided
13 the commission with the money necessary to offset the initial costs
14 incurred by the commission in establishing the Support Our
15 Veterans license plate program; and (2) the Veterans Haven
16 Council, or its designee, has provided the commission with a
17 minimum of 500 completed applications for Support Our Veterans
18 license plates, upon the availability for purchase of those plates.

19 The chief administrator is responsible for publicizing the
20 availability of the license plates on the commission's website. The
21 Veterans Haven Council or any individual or entity designated by
22 the Veterans Haven Council, may also publicize the availability of
23 Support Our Veterans license plates in any manner the Veterans
24 Haven Council deems appropriate.

25 The provisions of the bill remain inoperative until the
26 appropriate applications and fees required to offset the initial costs
27 incurred by the commission are provided by the board, and the bill
28 expires after 12 months if sufficient applications and fees to offset
29 the initial costs are not received.