

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 61
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/11/19

Short Title: Handicapped & Various Other License Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 14, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF HANDICAPPED LICENSE PLATES TO A
3 REGISTERED VEHICLE OWNER THAT IS THE GUARDIAN OR PARENT OF A
4 HANDICAPPED PERSON AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR
5 VEHICLES TO PRODUCE VARIOUS SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR
6 ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE COMPLIED WITH THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION
7 PLATE PROCESS.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. G.S. 20-37.5 reads as rewritten:

10 "§ 20-37.5. Definitions.

11 ...

12 (1a) Guardian. – Any of the following:

13 a. Custodian. – As defined in G.S. 7B-101(8).

14 b. General Guardian. – As defined in G.S. 35A-1202(7).

15 c. Guardian of the person. – As defined in G.S. 35A-1202(10).

16"

17 SECTION 2. G.S. 20-37.6 reads as rewritten:

18 "§ 20-37.6. Parking privileges for handicapped drivers and passengers.

19 ...

20 (b) ~~Handicapped Car Owners;~~ Distinguishing License Plates. – If the ~~handicapped person~~
21 ~~is a registered owner of a vehicle, vehicle is handicapped or the registered owner certifies that~~
22 ~~the registered owner is the guardian or parent of a handicapped person, the registered owner may~~
23 apply for and display a distinguishing license plate. This license plate shall be issued for the
24 normal fee applicable to standard license plates. Any vehicle owner who qualifies for a
25 distinguishing license plate shall be notified by the Division at the time the plate is issued that
26 the applicant is also eligible to receive one removable windshield placard and, upon request, shall
27 be issued a placard at that time. A vehicle with a distinguishing license plate may be lawfully
28 used when a handicapped person is not a driver or passenger so long as the vehicle is not using
29 handicapped privileges including parking in a space designated with a sign pursuant to subsection
30 (d) of this section.

31 (c) ~~Handicapped Drivers and Passengers;~~ Distinguishing Placards. – A handicapped
32 person may apply for the issuance of a removable windshield placard or a temporary removable
33 windshield placard. Upon request, one additional placard may be issued to applicants who do not
34 have a distinguishing license plate. Any organization which, as determined and certified by the
35 State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, regularly transports handicapped persons may also
36 apply. These organizations may receive one removable windshield placard for each transporting



1 vehicle. When the removable windshield or temporary removable windshield placard is properly
 2 displayed, all parking rights and privileges extended to vehicles displaying a distinguishing
 3 license plate issued pursuant to subsection (b) shall apply. The removable windshield placard or
 4 the temporary removable windshield placard shall be displayed so that it may be viewed from
 5 the front and rear of the vehicle by hanging it from the front windshield rearview mirror of a
 6 vehicle using a parking space allowed for handicapped persons. When there is no inside rearview
 7 mirror, or when the placard cannot reasonably be hung from the rearview mirror by the
 8 handicapped person, the placard shall be displayed on the driver's side of the dashboard. A
 9 removable windshield placard placed on a motorized wheelchair or similar vehicle shall be
 10 displayed in a clearly visible location. The Division shall establish procedures for the issuance
 11 of the placards and may charge a fee sufficient to pay the actual cost of issuance, but in no event
 12 less than five dollars (\$5.00) per placard. The Division shall issue a placard registration card with
 13 each placard issued to a handicapped person. The registration card shall bear the name of the
 14 person to whom the placard is issued, the person's address, the placard number, and an expiration
 15 date. The registration card shall be in the vehicle in which the placard is being used, and the
 16 person to whom the placard is issued shall be the operator or a passenger in the vehicle in which
 17 the placard is displayed.

18 (c1) Application and Renewal; Medical Certification. – The initial application for a
 19 distinguishing license plate, removable windshield placard, or temporary removable windshield
 20 placard shall be accompanied by a certification of a licensed physician, a licensed
 21 ophthalmologist, a licensed optometrist, a licensed physician assistant, a licensed nurse
 22 practitioner, or the Division of Services for the Blind that the applicant or person in the applicant's
 23 custody or care is handicapped or by a disability determination by the United States Department
 24 of Veterans Affairs that the applicant or person in the applicant's custody or care is handicapped.
 25 For an initial application for a temporary removable windshield placard only, the certification
 26 that the applicant is handicapped may be made by a licensed certified nurse midwife. The
 27 application for a temporary removable windshield placard shall contain additional certification
 28 to include the period of time the certifying authority determines the applicant will have the
 29 disability. Distinguishing license plates shall be renewed annually, but subsequent applications
 30 shall not require a medical certification that the applicant is ~~handicapped~~. handicapped, except
 31 that a registered owner that certified pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that the registered
 32 owner is the guardian or parent of a handicapped person must recertify every five years.
 33 Removable windshield placards shall be renewed every five years, and, except for a person
 34 certified as totally and permanently disabled at the time of the initial application or a prior
 35 renewal under this subsection, the renewal shall require a medical recertification that the person
 36 is handicapped; provided that a medical certification shall not be required to renew any placard
 37 that expires after the person to whom it is issued is 80 years of age. Temporary removable
 38 windshield placards shall expire no later than six months after issuance.

39"

40 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 20-63(b1) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

41 "Q Keeping The Lights On."

42 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 20-79.4(b) reads as rewritten:

43 "(b) Types. – The Division shall issue the following types of special registration plates:

44 ...

45 Q ALS Research. – Issuable to a registered owner of a motor vehicle in
 46 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear a picture of a baseball and
 47 the phrase "Cure ALS."

48 ...

49 Q A Pet Is Family. – Issuable to a registered owner of a motor vehicle in
 50 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear a picture of a paw print
 51 and the phrase "My Pet Is Family."

- 1 ...
- 2 () Keeping The Lights On. – Issuable to a registered owner of a motor vehicle in
- 3 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall have a background of
- 4 mountains to the coast and bear a picture of a line worker on a utility pole on
- 5 the left and the phrase "Keeping The Lights On" at the top of the registration
- 6 plate.
- 7 ...
- 8 () Wrightsville Beach. – Issuable to a registered owner of a motor vehicle in
- 9 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear the Town of Wrightsville
- 10 Beach logo followed by the four assigned or personalized characters ending
- 11 with the suffix WB.

12"

13 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 20-79.7 reads as rewritten:

14 **"§ 20-79.7. Fees for special registration plates and distribution of the fees.**

15 ...

16 (a1) Fees. – All other special registration plates are subject to the regular motor vehicle

17 registration fee in G.S. 20-87 or G.S. 20-88 plus an additional fee in the following amount:

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>Additional Fee Amount</u>
18 Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity	\$30.00
19 <u>ALS Research</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
20 American Red Cross	\$30.00
21 ...	
22 In God We Trust	\$30.00
23 <u>Keeping The Lights On</u>	<u>\$30.00</u>
24 Kick Cancer for Kids	\$30.00
25 ...	
26 USO of NC	Expired July 1, 2016
27 <u>Wrightsville Beach</u>	<u>\$20.00</u>
28 Zeta Phi Beta Sorority	\$20.00
29 <u>A Pet Is Family</u>	<u>\$15.00</u>
30 Carolina Regional Volleyball Association	Expired July 1, 2016

31 ...

32 (b) Distribution of Fees. – The Special Registration Plate Account and the Collegiate and

33 Cultural Attraction Plate Account are established within the Highway Fund. The Division must

34 credit the additional fee imposed for the special registration plates listed in ~~subsection (a)~~

35 subsection (a1) of this section among the Special Registration Plate Account (SRPA), the

36 Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account (CCAPA), the Clean Water Management Trust

37 Fund (CWMTF), which is established under G.S. 113A-253, and the Parks and Recreation Trust

38 Fund, which is established under G.S. 113-44.15, as follows:

<u>Special Plate</u>	<u>SRPA</u>	<u>CCAPA</u>	<u>CWMTF</u>	<u>PRTF</u>
39 ...				
40 ALS Association, Jim "Catfish"				
41 Hunter Chapter –				
42 Expired July 1, 2016				
43 <u>ALS Research</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
44 American Red Cross –				
45 Expired July 1, 2016				
46 Animal Lovers	\$10	\$20	0	0
47 <u>A Pet Is Family</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
48 ARC of North Carolina –				
49 Expired July 1, 2016				

1	...				
2	Kappa Alpha Order –				
3	Expired July 1, 2016				
4	<u>Keeping The Lights On</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$20</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
5	Kick Cancer for Kids	\$10	\$20	0	0
6	...				
7	Wildlife Resources	\$10	\$20	0	0
8	<u>Wrightsville Beach</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>\$10</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
9	YMCA –				
10	Expired July 1, 2016				
11"				

12 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 20-81.12 is amended by adding the following new subsections to
 13 read:

14 "() ALS Research. – The Division shall transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate
 15 and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of ALS Research plates to The ALS
 16 Association of North Carolina Chapter to support ALS research.

17 () A Pet Is Family. – The Division shall transfer quarterly the money in the Collegiate
 18 and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of A Pet Is Family plates to The
 19 Sergei Foundation, Inc., to further its mission of saving companion pets' lives by coordinating
 20 care for sick and injured dogs and cats and providing families with resources to obtain life-saving
 21 veterinary care.

22 () Keeping The Lights On. – The Division shall transfer quarterly the money in the
 23 Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of Keeping The Lights
 24 On plates to the UNC Jaycee Burn Center.

25 () Wrightsville Beach. – The Division shall transfer quarterly the money in the
 26 Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account derived from the sale of Wrightsville Beach
 27 plates to the Town of Wrightsville Beach to help fund the Town's continuing efforts to maintain
 28 and improve recreational opportunities for residents and visitors of Wrightsville Beach."

29 **SECTION 7.** The Revisor of Statutes is authorized to alphabetize, number, and
 30 renumber the special registration plates listed in G.S. 20-63(b1), 20-79.4(b), and 20-81.12 to
 31 ensure that all the special registration plates are listed in alphabetical order and numbered
 32 accordingly.

33 **SECTION 8.** This act becomes effective March 1, 2020.