

ASSEMBLY TRANSPORTATION, PUBLIC WORKS AND
INDEPENDENT AUTHORITIES COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO
ASSEMBLY, No. 3713

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 26, 2009

The Assembly Transportation, Public Works and Independent Authorities Committee reports favorably and with amendments Assembly Bill No. 3713.

As reported, this amended bill would establish a new system whereby authorized special vehicle registration plate decals (“special decals”) or medallions could be affixed to a new type of license plate designed and issued by the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC).

Under the provisions of the bill, the MVC would cease producing any additional special license plates, excluding those which are issued to current mayors, which have either been created by statute or which have been established for certain organizations upon application to the MVC. The MVC would continue issuing existing special license plates until the inventory of such plates has been exhausted. If the inventory of any special license plate is not exhausted within one year of the effective of this bill becoming law, the chief administrator of the MVC would have the authority to discontinue issuance of the special license plate and would not be required to replace the plate with a special decal.

Under the bill, all applications, fees, and non-lapsing accounts created for or funded by existing special license plates would continue to be applicable to the special decals or medallions issued under the provisions of this bill. This bill would not invalidate any existing special license plate issued prior to the bill’s effective date.

As amended, the bill would direct the MVC to design the new type of license plate to which special decals or medallions may be affixed.

As amended, the bill directs the chief administrator to establish specifications, by regulation, concerning the special decals and medallions that may be affixed to the new type of license plate established by the MVC. Following establishment of such specifications, any organization, association, or group that seeks a special decal or medallion bearing its name, insignia, or slogan would apply directly to the MVC for approval. The application would

include, but not be limited to, a prototype of the special decal or medallion which conforms to the specifications adopted by the MVC. The chief administrator shall review all applications and determine whether or not the special decal or medallion conforms to MVC specifications. The MVC shall notify the applicant if an application has been approved within 90 days. Upon approval of an application, the applicant shall be responsible for producing and issuing the special decal or medallion. The decal or medallion would then be affixed to the new type of indented license plate established by the MVC.

This bill would take effect one year from the date of enactment.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

The committee amended the bill to clarify that the MVC shall cease producing, but continue issuing, existing special license plates until the inventory of such plates has been exhausted. The committee amended the bill to allow the chief administrator to discontinue the issuance of any special license plate if the inventory of such plate is not exhausted within one year of the effective date of the bill becoming law.

The committee amended the bill to make explicit reference to sections of statutory law which provide for the creation of special license plates.

The committee amended the bill to extend from 80 to 90 days the number of days that the MVC would have to review an application for special decals and medallions submitted by an organization, association, or group. Upon application approval, the applicant would produce and issue the approved special decals or medallions. Such special decals or medallions would be affixed to the MVC-approved indented license plates.

The committee amended the bill to direct the MVC to create a new type of license plate containing indentations to which special decals or medallions may be affixed.

The committee amended the bill to repeal sections of law concerning the procedures through which nonprofit organizations apply directly to the MVC for special license plates.

The committee amended the bill to update references to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission and the chief administrator.

The committee made technical amendments to the numbering of the bill's sections to account for newly inserted sections.