

ASSEMBLY, No. 1386

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 214th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2010 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman MICHAEL PATRICK CARROLL

District 25 (Morris)

Assemblyman JOHN DIMAIO

District 23 (Warren and Hunterdon)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes special license plates to fund certain programs for pregnant women.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning special "Choose Life" license plates and
2 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
8 Vehicle Commission, upon proper application therefor, shall issue
9 for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered in this State
10 special license plates bearing, in addition to the registration number
11 and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law,
12 the slogan "Choose Life." These plates may include an emblem, to
13 be designed by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services
14 and approved by the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor
15 Vehicle Commission, indicating support for, and an interest in,
16 funding programs for pregnant women seeking an alternative to
17 abortion. "Choose Life" license plates shall be subject to all
18 applicable requirements of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised
19 Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

20 b. The chief administrator shall collect a \$50 application fee for
21 the "Choose Life" license plates in addition to the fees otherwise
22 prescribed by law for the registration of the motor vehicle. The
23 chief administrator shall collect annually subsequent to the year of
24 issuance of the license plate a \$10 fee for the license plate, in
25 addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration
26 of the motor vehicle. The additional fees required by this
27 subsection shall be deposited into the "Choose Life License Plate
28 Fund" established pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

29 c. There is created in the Department of Treasury a special non-
30 lapsing fund to be known as the "Choose Life License Plate Fund."
31 There shall be deposited in the fund the amount collected from all
32 license plate fees collected pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
33 less the amounts necessary to reimburse the New Jersey Motor
34 Vehicle Commission for administrative costs pursuant to subsection
35 d. of this section. Moneys deposited in the fund shall be dedicated
36 exclusively to supporting programs for pregnant women seeking an
37 alternative to abortion. The Commissioner of Health and Senior
38 Services shall designate the grant recipients and amounts pursuant
39 to this section. The commissioner shall not designate as a grant
40 recipient any program that provides abortion services or otherwise
41 promotes or supports abortion. A grant recipient shall limit the use
42 of the grant to benefit women who are pregnant. Moneys deposited
43 in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public
44 depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236
45 (C.17:9-41) and may be invested or reinvested in such securities as
46 are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned
47 on moneys deposited into the fund, and any moneys which may be
48 appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the

1 fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set
2 forth in this act.

3 d. Prior to the deposit of license plate fees collected pursuant to
4 subsection b. of this section into the fund, amounts thereof as are
5 necessary shall be used to reimburse the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
6 Commission for all costs reasonably and actually incurred, as
7 stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

8 (1) producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the availability
9 of "Choose Life" license plates; and

10 (2) any initial fees, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000,
11 collected from the issuance of "Choose Life" license plates to be
12 allocated to the commission to pay the cost of any computer
13 programming changes that may be necessary to implement the
14 "Choose Life" license plate program established by this act.

15 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State
16 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the
17 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,
18 issuing, renewing and publicizing the availability of "Choose Life"
19 license plates. The annual certification of the average cost per
20 license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
21 Committee or its successor.

22 If the average cost per license plate as certified by the chief
23 administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
24 Committee or its successor is greater than the \$50 application fee
25 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal
26 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of
27 "Choose Life" license plates.

28 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
29 opportunity to obtain "Choose Life" license plates by including a
30 notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals, and by posting
31 appropriate posters or signs in all commission facilities and offices.
32 The notices, posters and signs shall be designed by the New Jersey
33 Motor Vehicle Commission in consultation with the Commissioner
34 of Health and Senior Services.

35 f. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
36 Commission, the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and
37 the State Treasurer shall develop and enter into an interagency
38 memorandum of agreement setting forth the procedures to be
39 followed by the commission and the department in carrying out
40 their respective responsibilities under this act.

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42 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month
43 after enactment, but the chief administrator may take such
44 anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be necessary for the
45 timely implementation of this act upon its effective date.

STATEMENT

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This bill requires the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission to issue special "Choose Life" license plates to persons interested in supporting programs for pregnant women seeking an alternative to abortion. In addition to the registration number and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the license plate shall display the words "Choose Life" and an emblem to be designed by the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services and approved by the chief administrator.

An application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 would be required for the special plates in addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the registration of the motor vehicle. These additional fees, after the deduction of the cost of producing and publicizing the plates, are to be deposited in a special non-lapsing account known as the "Choose Life License Plate Fund." The proceeds are to be used to fund programs for pregnant women seeking an alternative to abortion as designated by the commissioner. The commissioner is prohibited from designating as a grant recipient any program that provides abortion services or otherwise promotes or supports abortion. Grant recipients are limited to using the grant to benefit women who are pregnant.

The chief administrator is required to certify the average cost per unit in producing, issuing and publicizing the child protection license plates each year. If the average cost exceeds \$50 for two consecutive fiscal years, the chief administrator may discontinue the license plate program. The director would also be responsible for notifying eligible motorists of the availability of the plates.

Examples of programs for pregnant women seeking an alternative to abortion located in New Jersey include Several Sources Foundation, Helping Hand Pregnancy Centers and Abba House.