

**ASSEMBLY, No. 111**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**218th LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman WAYNE P. DEANGELO**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman JOE DANIELSEN**

**District 17 (Middlesex and Somerset)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes special Combat Action Badge license plate program.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1    **AN ACT** concerning Combat Action Badge license plates and  
2       supplementing 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.   Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the  
8       New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue Combat Action  
9       Badge license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and  
10      registered in this State. In addition to the registration number and  
11      other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the  
12      license plate shall display the words, "Combat Action Badge" and  
13      depict the Combat Action Badge emblem. The chief administrator,  
14      in consultation with the Adjutant General of the New Jersey  
15      Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, shall select the design  
16      of the Combat Action Badge license plates. The Combat Action  
17      Badge license plates shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 3  
18      of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise  
19      specifically provided.

20      b.   Application for issuance of a Combat Action Badge license  
21      plate shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a  
22      manner prescribed by the chief administrator. The application shall  
23      include proof satisfactory to the chief administrator that the  
24      applicant is a holder of the Combat Action Badge as certified on the  
25      applicant's DD-214 form or on a Certificate of Release or Discharge  
26      from Active Duty. In order to be deemed complete, an application  
27      shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50, payable to the New Jersey  
28      Motor Vehicle Commission, which shall be in addition to the fee  
29      otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of motor vehicles.  
30      The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the  
31      year of issuance of the Combat Action Badge license plate, a \$10  
32      fee for the license plate in addition to the fee otherwise prescribed  
33      by law for the registration of a motor vehicle. The additional fees  
34      required by this subsection shall be deposited in the "Combat  
35      Action Badge License Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c.  
36      of this section.

37      c.   There is created in the Department of Treasury a special  
38      non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Combat Action Badge  
39      License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the  
40      amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to  
41      subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to  
42      reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to  
43      subsection d. of this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be  
44      appropriated annually to the New Jersey Department of Military  
45      and Veterans Affairs and shall be used to support programs  
46      benefiting combat veterans. Monies deposited in the fund shall be  
47      held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories as defined  
48      pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be

1 invested or reinvested in securities approved by the State Treasurer.  
2 Interest or other income earned on monies deposited into the fund,  
3 and any monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become  
4 available for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and  
5 deposited in the fund for use as set forth in P.L. , c. (C. )  
6 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

7 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant  
8 to subsection b. of this section into the "Combat Action Badge  
9 License Plate Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used  
10 to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably and actually  
11 incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

12 (1) producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the  
13 availability of the Combat Action Badge license plates; and

14 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially  
15 necessary to implement the Combat Action Badge license plate  
16 program established by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
17 Legislature as this bill), in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

18 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State  
19 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the  
20 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,  
21 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the Combat  
22 Action Badge license plates. The annual certification of the average  
23 cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget  
24 Oversight Committee, or its successor.

25 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by  
26 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight  
27 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee  
28 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal  
29 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of  
30 Combat Action Badge license plates.

31 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the  
32 opportunity to obtain Combat Action Badge license plates by  
33 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of  
34 the commission. The New Jersey Department of Military and  
35 Veterans Affairs, and any other individual or entity designated by  
36 the department, may publicize the availability of the Combat Action  
37 Badge license plates in any manner that the department deems  
38 appropriate.

39 f. The chief administrator and adjutant general shall develop  
40 and enter into an inter-departmental memorandum of agreement  
41 setting forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their  
42 respective responsibilities under P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
43 before the Legislature as this bill).

44 g. The adjutant general shall appoint a representative who shall  
45 act as a liaison between the department and the commission. The  
46 liaison shall represent the department in any and all  
47 communications with the commission regarding the Combat Action  
48 Badge license plates established by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending

1 before the Legislature as this bill).

2

3 2. a. No State or public funds shall be used by the commission  
4 for the initial cost of:

5 (1) producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of  
6 Combat Action Badge license plates; or

7 (2) any computer programming changes which may be  
8 necessary to implement the Combat Action Badge license plate  
9 program established by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
10 Legislature as this bill).

11 b. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans  
12 Affairs, or other individual or entity designated by the department,  
13 shall contribute non-public monies in an amount to be determined  
14 by the chief administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be  
15 used to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for  
16 producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of Combat  
17 Action Badge license plates, and any computer programming which  
18 may be necessary to implement the program. Concerned  
19 organizations and individual donors may contribute monies to the  
20 department to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the  
21 commission for the Combat Action Badge license plates authorized  
22 by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
23 bill),. Any amount remaining after the payment of the initial cost  
24 shall be deposited in the "Combat Action Badge License Plate  
25 Fund" established pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of  
26 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

27 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,  
28 issuing, or publicizing the availability of the Combat Action Badge  
29 license plates, or making any necessary computer programming  
30 changes until the department has provided the commission with the  
31 money necessary, as determined by the chief administrator pursuant  
32 to subsection b. of this section, to offset the initial costs incurred by  
33 the commission in establishing the Combat Action Badge license  
34 plate program.

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36 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain  
37 inoperative until the first day of the seventh month following the  
38 date on which the condition set forth in subsection c. of section 2 of  
39 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  
40 has been satisfied. The chief administrator may take such  
41 anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be necessary for the  
42 timely implementation of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
43 Legislature as this bill). P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
44 Legislature as this bill) shall expire if the condition set forth in  
45 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
46 the Legislature as this bill) is not satisfied by the last day of the  
47 12th month following enactment.

## STATEMENT

This bill authorizes special Combat Action Badge license plates. The license plate is to display the words, "Combat Action Badge" and the Combat Action Badge emblem. An application to obtain Combat Action Badge license plates is to include satisfactory proof that the applicant received the Combat Action Badge. In addition to the required motor vehicle registration fees, there is an application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the Combat Action Badge license plates. After deducting the cost of producing and publicizing the plates, the additional fees collected will be deposited into the "Combat Action Badge License Fund" and the funds will be appropriated annually to the New Jersey Department of Military Veterans Affairs (department) for programs to benefit combat veterans.

The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) is required to annually certify the average cost of producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per plate exceeds \$50, the chief administrator may discontinue the license plate program.

The bill provides that no State or other public funds may be used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the Combat Action Badge license plate program. The bill authorizes the department to receive funds, in an amount not to exceed a total of \$25,000, from private sources to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of the license plates.

The provisions of the bill are to remain inoperative until the commission receives the initial funds. The bill will expire if the funds to initiate the license plate program are not received within 12 months of the effective date.

The Combat Action Badge was approved for creation by the Chief of Staff of the United States Army on May 2, 2005. The honor was created to provide special recognition to any member of the armed forces who personally engaged an enemy in close combat in an imminent danger area. Recognition for close combat was previously only provided to members of infantry units through the Combat Infantry Badge. The Combat Action Badge extended the opportunity for recognition for close combat to members of the United States Army outside of infantry units.