

ASSEMBLY, No. 1521

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman KEVIN J. ROONEY

District 40 (Bergen, Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Assemblyman JOHN J. BURZICHELLI

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman DANIEL R. BENSON

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblymen Thomson, Dancer and DiMaio

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of special license plates commemorating horse as State animal.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning the creation of special license plates
2 commemorating the horse as the State animal and supplementing
3 chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
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8 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
9 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue State Animal
10 license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered
11 in this State. In addition to the registration number and other
12 markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the license
13 plates shall display the words "State Animal," and an emblem
14 indicating that the horse is the official New Jersey State Animal.
15 The chief administrator shall, in consultation with the Secretary of
16 Agriculture, select the design and color scheme of the State Animal
17 license plates. The State Animal license plates shall be subject to
18 the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes,
19 except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

20 b. Application for issuance of State Animal license plates shall
21 be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a manner
22 prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be deemed
23 complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50,
24 payable to the commission, which shall be in addition to the fees
25 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle.

26 The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the
27 year of issuance of the State Animal license plates, a \$10 fee for the
28 license plates in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for
29 the registration of a motor vehicle. The additional fees required by
30 this subsection shall be deposited in the "State Animal License
31 Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

32 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
33 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "State Animal License Plate
34 Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount collected
35 from all license plate fees collected pursuant to subsection b. of this
36 section, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the commission for
37 the administrative costs pursuant to subsection d. of this section.
38 Monies deposited in the fund shall be appropriated annually to the
39 New Jersey Department of Agriculture to support any departmental
40 program to support the health and welfare of horses and to provide
41 therapeutic riding to individuals with special needs in the State.
42 Monies deposited in the fund shall be held in interest bearing
43 accounts in public depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of
44 P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in
45 such securities as are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or
46 other income earned on monies deposited in the fund, and any
47 monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become available

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

3 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant
4 to subsection b. of this section into the "State Animal License Plate
5 Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used to reimburse
6 the commission for all costs reasonably and actually incurred, as
7 stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

8 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
9 availability of the State Animal license plates; and

10 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
11 necessary to implement the State Animal license plate program in
12 an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

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

20 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by
21 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
22 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee
23 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal
24 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of State
25 Animal license plates.

26 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
27 opportunity to obtain State Animal license plates by publicizing the
28 availability of the license plates on the website of the commission.
29 The New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and any other
30 individual or entity designated by the department, may publicize the
31 availability of the license plates in any manner the department
32 deems appropriate.

33 f. The chief administrator and the Secretary of Agriculture
34 shall develop and enter into a memorandum of agreement setting
35 forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their respective
36 responsibilities under P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
37 Legislature as this bill).

38 g. The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint a representative
39 who shall act as a liaison between the department and the
40 commission. The liaison shall represent the department in any and
41 all communications with the commission regarding the license
42 plates established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
43 Legislature as this bill).

44
45 2. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the
46 commission for the initial cost of:

47 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
48 availability of State Animal license plates; or

1 (2) any computer programming changes which may be
2 necessary to implement the State Animal license plate program
3 established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
4 Legislature as this bill).

5 b. An individual or entity designated by the Secretary of
6 Agriculture shall contribute non-public monies in an amount to be
7 determined by the chief administrator, not to exceed a total of
8 \$25,000, to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the
9 commission for designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
10 availability of State Animal license plates, and any computer
11 programming which may be necessary to implement the program.
12 Concerned organizations and individual donors may contribute
13 monies to the department to be used to offset the initial costs
14 incurred by the commission for the State Animal license plates
15 authorized by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
16 Legislature as this bill). Any amount remaining after the payment
17 of the initial cost shall be deposited in the "State Animal License
18 Plate Fund" established pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of
19 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

20 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
21 issuing, or publicizing the availability of State Animal license
22 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until the
23 following requirements have been met:

24 (1) The individual or entity designated by the Secretary of
25 Agriculture has provided the commission with the money necessary,
26 as determined by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b.
27 of this section, to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission
28 in establishing the State Animal license plate program; and

29 (2) The liaison appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture
30 pursuant to subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
31 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) has provided the
32 commission with not less than 500 completed applications for State
33 Animal license plates. These applications shall constitute the initial
34 order for State Animal license plates and shall be accompanied by a
35 fee representing the total cost of the initial order. The fee shall be
36 determined by multiplying the number of sets of license plates
37 being ordered by the applicable initial fee for each set of license
38 plates as set forth in subsection b. of section 1 of
39 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

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41 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
42 inoperative until the first day of the 13th month following the date
43 on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
44 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
45 the Legislature as this bill) have been satisfied. The chief
46 administrator may take such anticipatory actions in advance of that
47 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of
48 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

1 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
2 shall expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
3 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
4 the Legislature as this bill) are not satisfied by the last day of the
5 12th month following enactment.

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STATEMENT

10 This bill authorizes the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
11 (commission) to issue special State Animal license plates.

12 The license plates are to be designed by the Chief Administrator
13 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (chief administrator),
14 in consultation with the Secretary (secretary) of the New Jersey
15 Department of Agriculture (department), and feature an emblem
16 that indicates that the horse is the official State Animal of New
17 Jersey.

18 In addition to the required motor vehicle registration fees, there
19 is an application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the
20 State Animal license plates. After deducting the costs to implement
21 the plates, the additional fees collected are to be deposited into the
22 "State Animal License Plate Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to
23 be appropriated annually to the department to support any
24 departmental program to support the health and wellbeing of horses
25 and to provide therapeutic riding to individuals with special needs
26 in the State.

27 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
28 average cost of producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability
29 of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per plate exceeds
30 \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief administrator may
31 discontinue the State Animal license plate program. The bill also
32 requires that the secretary appoint a liaison to represent the
33 department in all communications with the commission regarding
34 the State Animal license plates.

35 The bill provides that State or other public funds may not be
36 used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the State
37 Animal license plate program. The bill requires an individual or
38 entity designated by the secretary to contribute non-public monies,
39 not to exceed \$25,000, to offset the initial costs to design, produce,
40 issue, and publicize the license plates and for any computer
41 programming necessary to implement the program. The bill
42 authorizes the department to receive funds from private sources to
43 be used to offset the initial costs.

44 The chief administrator is not required to design, produce, issue,
45 or publicize the availability of the State Animal license plates, or
46 make any necessary programming changes, until: (1) an individual
47 or entity designated by the secretary has provided the commission
48 with the money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred by the

A1521 ROONEY, BURZICHELLI

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1 commission in establishing the State Animal license plate program;
2 and (2) the secretary, or the secretary's designee, has provided the
3 commission with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the
4 State Animal license plates, upon the availability for purchase of
5 those license plates.

6 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the
7 appropriate applications and fees required to offset the initial costs
8 incurred by the commission are provided by the department's
9 designee. The bill expires after 12 months if sufficient applications
10 and fees to offset the initial costs are not received.