

SENATE, No. 92

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER "KIP" BATEMAN

District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes issuance of Protect Pollinators license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT authorizing the issuance of Protect Pollinator license plates
2 and 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. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
8 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue Protect
9 Pollinators license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and
10 registered in the State. In addition to the registration number and
11 other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the
12 license plate shall display appropriate words or a slogan and an
13 emblem representing one or more animal pollinators native to New
14 Jersey. The chief administrator shall select the design, including an
15 emblem and color scheme. Protect Pollinators license plates shall
16 be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised
17 Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

18 b. Application for issuance of a Protect Pollinators license plate
19 shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a manner
20 prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be deemed
21 complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50,
22 payable to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, which shall
23 be in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the
24 registration of a motor vehicle. The chief administrator shall collect
25 annually, subsequent to the year of issuance of the Protect
26 Pollinators license plate, a \$10 fee for the license plate in addition
27 to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a
28 motor vehicle.

29 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
30 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Protect Pollinators License
31 Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount
32 collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to subsection
33 b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the
34 commission for administrative costs associated with the program.
35 Monies deposited in the fund shall be appropriated annually to the
36 Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey and to the "Integrated
37 Roadside Vegetation Management Program" established pursuant to
38 section 3 of P.L.2017, c.44 (C.27:7-42.4) in order to support efforts
39 to protect pollinator animals in the State. Monies deposited in the
40 fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories
41 as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and
42 may be invested or reinvested in such securities as are approved by
43 the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned on monies
44 deposited in the fund, and any monies which may be appropriated
45 or otherwise become available for the purposes of the fund, shall be
46 credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set forth in this act.

47 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant
48 to subsection b. of this section into the "Protect Pollinators License

1 Plate Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used to
2 reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably and actually
3 incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

4 (1) producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
5 availability of the Protect Pollinators license plates; and

6 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
7 necessary to implement the Protect Pollinators license plate
8 program established by this act, in an amount not to exceed
9 \$150,000.

10 e. The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State
11 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the
12 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,
13 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the Protect
14 Pollinators license plates. The annual certification of the average
15 cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget
16 Oversight Committee, or its successor. In the event that the average
17 cost per license plate as certified by the chief administrator and
18 approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its
19 successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee established in
20 subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal years, the
21 chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of Protect
22 Pollinators license plates.

23 f. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
24 opportunity to obtain Protect Pollinators license plates by
25 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of
26 the commission.

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28 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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33 This bill would require the New Jersey Motor Vehicle
34 Commission to create "Protect Pollinator" license plates, to be
35 issued upon application for any motor vehicle registered in the
36 State. The license plate would feature a design and slogan that
37 expresses support for New Jersey's native pollinator animals.
38 Applicants for the license plate would be required to pay an initial
39 fee of \$50 and a subsequent \$10 fee to renew the license plates.

40 The bill would also establish a special fund called the "Protect
41 Pollinators License Plate Fund" in the Department of the Treasury.
42 Any monies from application fees that are not used to administer
43 the license plate program would be deposited in this fund and
44 annually appropriated to the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New
45 Jersey and to the "Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management
46 Program" established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2017, c.44
47 (C.27:7-42.4), in order to support efforts to protect pollinator

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1 animals in the State.

2 The program could be discontinued by the Chief Administrator
3 of the Motor Vehicle Commission in the event that the average cost
4 per plate of the program exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal
5 years.