

SENATE, No. 2662

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 6, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator STEVEN V. OROHO

District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senators Doherty and Pou

SYNOPSIS

Creates special license plates supporting Autism Awareness.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/10/2021)

1 AN ACT creating special license plates supporting Autism
2 Awareness and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the
3 Revised Statutes.

4

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

7

8 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
9 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue special license
10 plates supporting Autism Awareness for any motor vehicle owned
11 or leased and registered in the State. In addition to the registration
12 number and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed
13 by law, the license plate shall display appropriate words or a slogan
14 supporting Autism Awareness. The chief administrator shall select
15 the design and color scheme, in consultation with the Governor's
16 Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism, established
17 in the Department of Health, pursuant to section 4 of P.L.1999,
18 c.105 (C.30:6D-59). Autism Awareness license plates shall be
19 subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised
20 Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

21 b. Application for issuance of Autism Awareness license plates
22 shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a manner
23 prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be deemed
24 complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50,
25 payable to the commission, which shall be in addition to the fees
26 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle.
27 The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the
28 year of issuance of the Autism Awareness license plate, a \$10 fee
29 for the license plate in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by
30 law for the registration of a motor vehicle. The additional fees
31 required by this subsection shall be deposited in the "Autism
32 Awareness License Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c. of
33 this section.

34 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
35 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Autism Awareness License
36 Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount
37 collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to subsection
38 b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the
39 commission for administrative costs pursuant to subsection d. of
40 this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be appropriated
41 annually to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New
42 Jersey, to be expended in consultation with the Governor's Council
43 for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism. Monies deposited
44 in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public
45 depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236
46 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in securities
47 approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned on

1 monies deposited in the fund, and any monies which may be
2 appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the
3 fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set
4 forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
5 this bill).

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

11 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
12 availability of the Autism Awareness license plates; and

13 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
14 necessary to implement the Autism Awareness license plate
15 program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
16 Legislature as this bill).

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

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

30 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
31 opportunity to obtain Autism Awareness license plates by
32 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of
33 the commission. The Governor's Council for Medical Research and
34 Treatment of Autism, and any other individual or entity designated
35 by the Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of
36 Autism, may publicize the availability of Autism Awareness license
37 plates in any manner the council deems appropriate.

38 f. The chief administrator and the Governor's Council for
39 Medical Research and Treatment of Autism shall develop and enter
40 into a memorandum of agreement setting forth the procedures to be
41 followed in carrying out their respective responsibilities under
42 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

43 g. The Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment
44 of Autism shall appoint a representative who shall act as a liaison
45 between the organization and the commission. The liaison shall
46 represent the Governor's Council for Medical Research and
47 Treatment of Autism in any and all communications with the

1 commission regarding the Autism Awareness license plates
2 established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
3 as this bill).

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

7 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
8 availability of Autism Awareness license plates; or

9 (2) any computer programming changes which may be
10 necessary to implement the Autism Awareness license plate
11 program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
12 Legislature as this bill).

13 b. A representative designated by the Governor's Council for
14 Medical Research and Treatment of Autism shall contribute monies
15 in an amount to be determined by the chief administrator, not to
16 exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to offset the initial costs
17 incurred by the commission for designing, producing, issuing, and
18 publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness license plates, and
19 any computer programming which may be necessary to implement
20 the program. To further offset the initial costs incurred by the
21 commission for the Autism Awareness license plates authorized by
22 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill),
23 other concerned organizations and individual donors may contribute
24 monies to the Governor's Council for Medical Research and
25 Treatment of Autism, or the individual or entity designated by the
26 Governor's Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism,
27 for this purpose. Any amount remaining after the payment of the
28 initial costs shall be deposited in the "Autism Awareness License
29 Plate Fund" established pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of
30 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

31 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
32 issuing, or publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness license
33 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until the
34 following requirements have been met:

35 (1) The individual or entity designated by the Governor's
36 Council for Medical Research and Treatment of Autism has
37 provided the commission with the money necessary, as determined
38 by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
39 to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing
40 the Autism Awareness license plate program; and

41 (2) The liaison appointed by the Governor's Council for Medical
42 Research and Treatment of Autism pursuant to subsection g. of
43 section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature
44 as this bill) has provided the commission with not less than 500
45 completed applications for Autism Awareness license plates. These
46 applications shall constitute the initial order for Autism Awareness
47 license plates and shall be accompanied by a fee representing the

1 total cost of the initial order. The fee shall be determined by
2 multiplying the number of sets of license plates being ordered by
3 the applicable initial fee for each set of license plates as set forth in
4 subsection b. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
5 the Legislature as this bill).

6
7 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
8 inoperative until the first day of the 13th month following the date
9 on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
10 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
11 the Legislature as this bill) have been satisfied. The chief
12 administrator may take anticipatory actions in advance of that date
13 as may be necessary for the timely implementation of
14 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
15 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
16 shall expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
17 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
18 the Legislature as this bill) are not satisfied by the last day of the
19 12th month following enactment.

20 21 22 STATEMENT

23
24 This bill authorizes the creation of a special license plate
25 supporting Autism Awareness. The design of the Autism Awareness
26 license plate is to be chosen by the Chief Administrator (chief
27 administrator) of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission
28 (commission), in consultation with the Governor's Council for
29 Medical Research and Treatment of Autism (council).

30 In addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the
31 registration of a motor vehicle, there is an application fee of \$50
32 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the Autism Awareness license
33 plates. The additional fees, after the deduction of the cost of
34 designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates
35 and of any computer programming changes that are necessary to
36 implement the license plate program, will be deposited into a
37 special non-lapsing fund known as the " Autism Awareness License
38 Plate Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to be annually
39 appropriated to the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New
40 Jersey, to be expended in consultation with the council. .

41 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
42 average cost per license plate in producing, issuing, renewing, and
43 publicizing the Autism Awareness license plates. If the average
44 cost exceeds \$50 for two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
45 administrator may discontinue the license plate program.

46 The bill provides that no State or other public funds may be used
47 by the commission for the initial cost of designing, producing,

1 issuing, and publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness
2 license plates or any computer programming changes which may be
3 necessary to implement the Autism Awareness license plate
4 program.

5 The bill also requires that an individual or entity designated by
6 the council contribute monies in an amount to be determined by the
7 chief administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to
8 offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for designing,
9 producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of Autism
10 Awareness license plates, and any computer programming which
11 may be necessary to implement the program.

12 The bill prohibits the commission from designing, producing,
13 issuing, or publicizing the availability of Autism Awareness license
14 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until: (1) an
15 individual or entity designated by the council has provided the
16 commission with the money necessary to offset the initial costs
17 incurred by the commission in establishing the Autism Awareness
18 license plate program; and (2) the council, or its designee, has
19 provided the commission with a minimum of 500 completed
20 applications for Autism Awareness license plates, upon the
21 availability for purchase of those license plates.

22 The chief administrator is responsible for publicizing the
23 availability of the license plates on the commission's website. The
24 council, or any individual or entity designated by the council, may
25 also publicize the availability of Autism Awareness license plates in
26 any manner the council deems appropriate.

27 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the
28 appropriate applications and fees required to offset the initial costs
29 incurred by the commission are provided by an individual or entity
30 designated by the council. The bill expires after 12 months if
31 sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial costs are not
32 received.