

ASSEMBLY, No. 2114

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JUNE 3, 1996

By Assemblymen MORAN and CONNORS

1 AN ACT establishing Pinelands preservation license plates and
2 supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 and chapter 18A of Title 13 of
3 the Revised Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The director may issue for a motor vehicle registered in this
9 State special license plates bearing, in addition to the registration
10 number and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by
11 law, words and an emblem indicating support for, or an interest in,
12 Pinelands preservation. The license plate shall be designed by the
13 director, in consultation with the Pinelands Commission created by
14 section 4 of P.L.1979, c.111 (C.13:18A-4). Issuance of Pinelands
15 preservation license plates shall be subject to all applicable
16 requirements of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except
17 as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

18 b. The director shall collect a \$50 application fee for the Pinelands
19 preservation license plate in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed
20 by law for the registration of the motor vehicle. The director shall
21 collect annually subsequent to the year of issuance of the license plate
22 a \$10 fee for the license plate in addition to the fees otherwise
23 prescribed by law for the registration of the motor vehicle. The
24 additional fees required by this subsection shall be deposited into the
25 Pinelands Preservation Fund, established pursuant to section 2 of
26 P.L. , c. (C.) (now pending before the Legislature as this
27 bill).

28 c. The director shall annually certify to the State Treasurer the
29 average cost per license plate incurred in the immediately preceding
30 year by the Division of Motor Vehicles in producing, issuing,
31 renewing, making computer programming changes in connection with
32 and publicizing the Pinelands preservation license plates. On a
33 quarterly basis, the State Treasurer shall transfer a sum equal to the
34 division's cost in connection with the Pinelands preservation license
35 plates from the Pinelands Preservation Fund, established pursuant to
36 section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (now before the Legislature as this
37 bill), to the division. The annual certification of the average cost per

1 license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
2 Committee, or its successor.

3 d. In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified
4 by the director and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
5 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee
6 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal
7 years, the director may discontinue the issuance of Pinelands
8 preservation license plates.

9 e. The Pinelands Commission and the director shall develop and
10 enter into an interagency memorandum of agreement on procedures to
11 be followed to carry out their respective responsibilities under this act.
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13 2. a. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a
14 non-lapsing, revolving fund to be known as the "Pinelands
15 Preservation Fund." The fund shall be the depository of the fees
16 collected pursuant to subsection b. of section 1 of P.L. , c.
17 (C.) (now before the Legislature as this bill). Interest or other
18 income earned on monies deposited into the Pinelands Preservation
19 Fund shall be credited to the fund.

20 b. Moneys in the Pinelands Preservation Fund shall be appropriated
21 and distributed exclusively: (1) to reimburse the Division of Motor
22 Vehicles for all costs incurred by that division, as stipulated by the
23 director of that division, in producing, issuing, renewing, making
24 computer programming changes in connection with and publicizing
25 the Pinelands preservation license plates; (2) to pay for the costs of
26 surveys and appraisals and other necessary costs incurred by the
27 Department of Environmental Protection to acquire lands in the
28 Pinelands National Reserve that have limited practical use because of
29 their location and that are held by landowners who both own less than
30 50 acres in the reserve and have exhausted existing remedies to secure
31 relief; and (3) to pay for Pinelands acquisition projects approved by
32 the Commissioner of Environmental Protection in accordance with
33 applicable State and federal laws relating to the protection of the
34 Pinelands National Reserve and the pinelands area.

35 Of the initial fees collected from the issuance of Pinelands
36 preservation license plates, an amount not to exceed \$100,000 shall be
37 allocated to the Division of Motor Vehicles to pay the cost of any
38 computer programming changes that may be necessary to implement
39 the Pinelands preservation license plates program established by this
40 act.

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42 3. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment.

STATEMENT

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This bill establishes a special Pinelands license plate, with proceeds dedicated to the preservation of this ecologically sensitive wilderness area. The plate would bear words and an emblem designed by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in consultation with the Pinelands Commission. Motor vehicle owners and lessees would be able to obtain the plate for an initial fee of \$50 and an annual \$10 renewal fee. These fees would be in addition to the registration fees otherwise prescribed by law.

The additional fees would be deposited in the "Pinelands Preservation Fund," created by the bill, and used exclusively for license plate costs, approved Pinelands acquisition projects in accordance with applicable State and federal laws relating to the protection of the Pinelands National Reserve, and to pay for the costs of surveys and appraisals and other necessary costs incurred by the Department of Environmental Protection to acquire lands in the Pinelands National Reserve that have limited practical use because of their location and that are held by landowners who both own less than 50 acres in the reserve and have exhausted existing remedies to secure relief.

Establishes special license plate to aid Pinelands preservation.