

ASSEMBLY, No. 2643

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 9, 1997

By Assemblymen ASSELTA and GIBSON

1 AN ACT concerning special license plates and supplementing chapter
2 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. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall, upon
8 proper application therefor, issue Marine Mammal Stranding Center
9 license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered in
10 the State. In addition to the registration number and other markings
11 or identification otherwise prescribed by law, a Marine Mammal
12 Stranding Center license plate shall display words or a slogan and an
13 emblem indicating support for, or interest in, the Marine Mammal
14 Stranding Center. The license plate shall be designed by the director,
15 in consultation with the Director of the Marine Mammal Stranding
16 Center. Issuance of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center license
17 plates in accordance with this section shall be subject to the provisions
18 of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter
19 otherwise specifically provided.

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21 2. a. An application for issuance of a Marine Mammal Stranding
22 Center license plate shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50, in addition
23 to the fees otherwise required by law for the registration of the motor
24 vehicle. An application for the renewal of the plates shall be
25 accompanied by an additional fee of \$10. The additional application
26 and renewal fees shall be deposited in the Marine Mammal Stranding
27 Center Fund created pursuant to section 3 of this act.

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29 3. a. There is created in the Department of Treasury a non-lapsing,
30 interest-bearing fund to be known as the "Marine Mammal Stranding
31 Center Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount
32 collected from the additional license plate fees collected pursuant to
33 section 2 of this act, after reimbursement of the division for its actual
34 costs in administering this act.

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36 b. Monies deposited in the fund shall be utilized to defray the
37 center's operating costs pertaining to the rescue, treatment,
rehabilitation, and conservation of marine mammals and marine

1 reptiles, and related research and public education activities. Monies
2 deposited in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in
3 public depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.
4 236 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in such securities
5 as are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income
6 earned on monies deposited into the fund, and any monies which may
7 be appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the
8 fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set forth
9 in this act.

10 c. Moneys in the Marine Mammal Stranding Center Fund shall be
11 withdrawn by the State Treasurer and disbursed to the Marine
12 Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, New Jersey, upon request of
13 the center pursuant to a voucher system to be established by the State
14 Treasurer. The center shall indicate on each voucher request the
15 purpose to which the monies disbursed shall be applied.

16 d. The State Treasurer shall provide an annual report to the Marine
17 Mammal Stranding Center on the status of the funds, and the center
18 shall provide an annual report to the State Treasurer documenting
19 expenditures by the center of monies from the fund.

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21 4. a. Prior to the deposit of license plate fees collected pursuant
22 to section 3 of this act into the fund, amount thereof as are necessary
23 shall be used to reimburse the division for all costs reasonably and
24 actually incurred, as stipulated by the director, for:

25 (1) producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of
26 Marine Mammal Stranding Center license plates; and

27 (2) any initial computer programming fees that may be necessary to
28 implement the Marine Mammal Stranding Center license plate program
29 established by this act.

30 b. The director shall annually certify the average cost per license
31 plate incurred in the immediately preceding year by the division in
32 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of Marine
33 Mammal Stranding Center license plates.

34 c. In the event that the average cost per license plate, as certified
35 by the director and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
36 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee
37 established in subsection a. of section 2 of this act in two consecutive
38 fiscal years, the director may discontinue the issuance of Marine
39 Mammal Stranding Center license plates.

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41 5. The director shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to
42 obtain a Marine Mammal Stranding Center license plates by including
43 a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals, and by posting
44 appropriate posters or signs in all division facilities and offices. The
45 notices, posters, and signs shall be designed by the director after
46 consultation with the Director of the Marine Mammal Stranding

1 Center.

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3 6. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment, but
4 the State Treasurer, and the Director of the Division of Motor
5 Vehicles, and the Marine Mammal Stranding Center may take such
6 anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be necessary for the
7 timely implementation of this act upon the effective date thereof.

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10 STATEMENT

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12 This bill establishes a special marine mammal stranding center
13 license plate, with proceeds dedicated to the Marine Mammal
14 Stranding Center. The plate would bear words and an emblem
15 designed by the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in
16 consultation with the Director of the Marine Mammal Stranding
17 Center. Motor vehicle owners and lessees would be able to obtain the
18 plate for an initial fee of \$50 and an annual \$10 renewal fee, in
19 addition to the registration fees otherwise prescribed by law.

20 Monies deposited in the Marine Mammal Stranding Center Fund
21 shall be used exclusively for license plate costs and operational support
22 for the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, New Jersey.
23 The bill stipulates that these funds may be used by the center to
24 support its work pertaining to the rescue, treatment, rehabilitation, and
25 conservation of marine mammals and marine reptiles.

26 The bill also directs the DMV to include in all mailings of motor
27 vehicle registration renewals notice of the availability of Marine
28 Mammal license plates.

29 The bill requires the State Treasurer to report annually to the
30 Marine Mammal Stranding Center on the status of the funds. The bill
31 also requires the center to provide an annual report to the State
32 Treasurer documenting expenditures by the center of monies from the
33 fund.

34 The bill requires the Joint Budget Oversight Committee to approve
35 the DMV's annual certification of the average cost to produce, issue,
36 renew, and publicize the availability of a license plate. If the average
37 annual cost exceeds \$50 for two consecutive fiscal years, the DMV
38 would be authorized to discontinue the issuance of these license plates.

39 The Marine Mammal Stranding Center is a private, non-profit
40 organization licensed by the State and federal governments to rescue,
41 rehabilitate, and release stranded or otherwise distressed federally
42 protected whales, dolphins, seals and sea turtles from the State's
43 beaches and tidal waterways. The center then transports the rescued
44 marine mammals and reptiles to its center in Brigantine for treatment
45 and care, which can last from a few weeks to several months. The
46 proceeds of this bill would help defray the center's increasing

1 operational costs to accommodate housing and rehabilitating an
2 increasing number of stranded marine mammals and marine reptiles.

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7 Establishes special license plate to aid Marine Mammal Stranding

8 Center.