

ASSEMBLY, No. 2670

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1997

By Assemblyman ARNONE

1 AN ACT authorizing "Families First" license plates and supplementing
2 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. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall, upon
8 proper application therefor, issue for a motor vehicle owned or leased
9 and registered in the State special license plates bearing, in addition to
10 the registration number and other markings or identification otherwise
11 prescribed by law, the slogan "Families First."

12 b. Application for issuance of a Families First license plate shall be
13 made to the division on such forms and in a manner prescribed by the
14 director. The director shall collect for each set of plates issued an
15 application fee of \$50, and an annual renewal fee of \$10, in addition
16 to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of the
17 motor vehicle.

18 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
19 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Domestic Violence Shelter
20 Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the additional registration
21 fees collected pursuant to subsection b. of this section, less the
22 amounts necessary to reimburse the division for administrative costs
23 pursuant this act. Monies deposited in the fund shall be allocated to
24 the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy in the Department of Law and
25 Public Safety to be expended exclusively for the support and funding
26 of domestic violence shelters throughout the State. Monies deposited
27 in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public
28 depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236
29 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in such securities as
30 are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned
31 on monies deposited in the fund, and any monies which may be
32 appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the
33 fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set forth
34 in this section.

35 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional registration fees collected
36 pursuant to subsection b. of this section, amounts as are necessary
37 shall be used to reimburse the division for all costs reasonably and

1 actually incurred, as stipulated by the director, for:

2 (1) producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of
3 Families First license plates; and

4 (2) any initial fees collected from the issuance of Families First
5 license plates to be allocated to the division to pay the cost of any
6 computer programming changes that may be necessary to implement
7 the Families First license plate program established by this act.

8 e. The director shall annually certify to the Director of the Division
9 of Criminal Justice the average cost per license plate incurred in the
10 immediately preceding year by the division in producing, issuing,
11 renewing, and publicizing the availability of Families First license
12 plates. The annual certification of the average cost per license plate
13 shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its
14 successor.

15 f. In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by
16 the director and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee,
17 or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee established in
18 subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal years, the
19 director may discontinue the issuance of Families First license plates.

20 g. The director, the State Treasurer and the Director of the Office
21 of Victim-Witness Advocacy shall develop and enter into an
22 interagency memorandum of agreement setting forth the procedures
23 to be followed by the department, the office and the division in
24 carrying out their respective responsibilities under this act.

25 h. The director shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to
26 obtain Families First license plates by including a notice with all motor
27 vehicle registration renewals, and by posting appropriate posters or
28 signs as may be provided by the Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy,
29 in all division facilities and offices. The notices, posters and signs shall
30 be designed by the director in cooperation with the Director of the
31 Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy.

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33 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh month
34 after enactment; except the Director of the Division of Criminal
35 Justice, the State Treasurer and the Director of the Division of Motor
36 Vehicles may take such action in advance of the effective date as may
37 be necessary for the timely implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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42 This bill would establish a "Families First" license plate to support
43 and fund domestic violence shelters throughout the State. There
44 would be a \$50 fee in addition to the registration fees required by law,
45 with a \$10 renewal fee in addition to the renewal fees required by law.
46 The plates would display the slogan "Families First." The monies

1 raised from the fees for the license plate would be deposited into a
2 fund also established by this bill, to be known as the "Domestic
3 Violence Shelter Fund," after reimbursement to the Division of Motor
4 Vehicles for costs of producing and issuing the plates.

5 The Office of Victim-Witness Advocacy in the Division of Criminal
6 Justice of the Department of Law and Public Safety administers the
7 Victim-Witness Advocacy Program. This program provides grants to
8 non-profit organizations and public entities that provide direct services
9 including shelter to victims and witnesses of crime. The fund
10 established by this bill would specifically fund and support domestic
11 violence shelters, and would be administered by the Office of Victim-
12 Witness Advocacy. With growing demands for services to families,
13 programs such as this Domestic Violence Shelter Fund would help
14 make a difference in many lives.

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19 Establishes "Families First" license plate to benefit domestic violence
20 shelters.