

ASSEMBLY, No. 2751

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 27, 1997

By Assemblyman GUSCIORA and Assemblywoman TURNER

1 **AN ACT** concerning registration plates for veterans 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. Upon proper application, the Director of the Division of
8 Motor Vehicles may issue general veterans' license plates for a motor
9 vehicle owned or leased and registered in the State. These plates shall
10 be issued only upon proof satisfactory to the director, following
11 consultation with the Adjutant General of the Department of Military
12 and Veterans' Affairs, that the applicant is a veteran pursuant to
13 section 2 of P.L.1987, c.444 (C.38A:3-1.2) and has been honorably
14 discharged or has received a general discharge under honorable
15 conditions from active service in any branch of the United States
16 armed forces and meets the conditions specified in this subsection.
17 The plates shall be designed by the director following consultation
18 with the Adjutant General and with veterans' organizations. In
19 addition to the registration number and other markings or
20 identification otherwise prescribed by law, a general veterans' plate
21 shall display the word "Veteran," and may contain an appropriate
22 slogan or emblem or a designation of the conflict in which the veteran
23 served. Issuance of license plates in accordance with this act shall be
24 subject to the limitations of section 3 of P.L.1959, c.56 (C.39:3-33.5)
25 and other applicable requirements of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the
26 Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter specifically provided.

27 b. Application for issuance of a general veterans' license plate shall
28 be made to the director on forms and in a manner as may be prescribed
29 by the director. In order to be deemed complete, an application shall
30 be accompanied by a fee of \$50, payable to the Division of Motor
31 Vehicles, which shall be in addition to the fee otherwise prescribed by
32 law for the registration of motor vehicles. The annual renewal fee for
33 the registration of a motor vehicle for which a general veterans' license
34 plate has been issued shall be \$10, which shall be in addition to the fee
35 otherwise prescribed by law for the renewal of the registration
36 certificate.

1 c. The surviving spouse of a person qualified to receive general
2 veterans' plates under this act and who is eligible to operate a motor
3 vehicle in this State under the provisions of R.S.39:3-10 may retain
4 the special license plates obtained by the deceased spouse pursuant to
5 this section for display on a motor vehicle registered to the surviving
6 spouse under the provisions of R.S.39:3-4.

7 d. Monies from the application and renewal fees collected by the
8 Division of Motor Vehicles for general veterans' plates shall be
9 deposited in the Veterans' Research and Scholarship Fund established
10 in the Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs pursuant to
11 subsection e. of this section.

12 e. All fees collected pursuant to subsection d. of this section shall
13 be placed in a special nonlapsing fund to be known as the "Veterans'
14 Research and Scholarship Fund," which shall be administered by the
15 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs. After reimbursing the
16 Department of Motor Vehicles for the cost of production, issuance,
17 renewal, publicity and computer programming changes, 40 percent of
18 the moneys in the fund shall be used by the Adjutant General for the
19 promotion and implementation of research projects related to the
20 needs and interests of veterans and 60 percent shall be used for
21 scholarships to the children of members of established veterans'
22 organizations upon proper application by the organization and
23 approval by the Adjutant General.

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25 2. The director may promulgate rules and regulations governing
26 the issuance and use of these registration plates. The Adjutant General
27 may promulgate rules and regulations governing the expenditure of
28 funds in the Veterans' Research and Scholarship Fund.

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30 3. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month after
31 enactment but the Adjutant General and the Director of the Division
32 of Motor Vehicles may take such anticipatory acts in advance of that
33 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act
34 upon the effective date thereof.

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STATEMENT

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39 This bill would enable all eligible veterans of military service to
40 obtain special veterans' license plates for motor vehicles they own or
41 lease. Many proud veterans residing in this State who do not belong
42 to veterans' organizations or have not been awarded special medals for
43 heroism are presently unable to obtain plates noting their service in the
44 armed forces.

45 Applicants for the plates would be required to pay an initial \$50
46 application fee and an additional renewal fee of \$10. These fees, after

1 reimbursing Division of Motor Vehicle for its costs in issuing the
2 special plates, would be placed in a Veterans' Research and
3 Scholarship Fund, to be administered by the Department of Military
4 and Veterans' Affairs. Forty percent of the monies remaining would
5 be used for veteran-related research projects, such as for Agent
6 Orange and Desert Storm illnesses, and 60 percent would be used for
7 scholarships for the children of members of veterans' organizations.

8 The special license plates would be inscribed with the word
9 "Veteran" and might also include a reference to the particular conflict
10 in which the veteran served. Veterans are eligible if they have been
11 honorably discharged or given general discharges under honorable
12 conditions. They must qualify as veterans under the definition of
13 veteran in section 2 of P.L.1987, c.444 (C.38A:3-1.2) which generally
14 requires that they have served in any branch of the armed forces of the
15 United States for at least 90 days.

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20 Provides for special license plates for certain discharged veterans and
21 surviving spouses.