

CHAPTER 195

AN ACT providing for the issuance of certain license plates for the purpose of assisting in the support and funding of projects and programs at Liberty State Park, and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

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

C.39:3-27.91 Definitions relative to Liberty State park license plates.

1. As used in this act:

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental Protection;

"Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection;

"Director" means the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Transportation;

"Division" means the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Transportation;

"Fund" means the "Liberty State Park License Plate Fund" created pursuant to section 4 of this act.

C.39:3-27.92 Liberty State Park license plates, issuance.

2. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall, upon proper application therefor, issue Liberty State Park license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered in the State. In addition to the registration number and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, a Liberty State Park license plate shall display words or a slogan and an emblem indicating support for, or an interest in, Liberty State Park. The words or slogan and emblem shall be chosen by the director; however, the director shall solicit, in conjunction with the Legislature, input from the general public on the design of the plate and shall review the submissions prior to choosing the design. Issuance of Liberty State Park license plates in accordance with this section shall be subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

C.39:3-27.93 Application, annual fee.

3. a. Application for issuance of a Liberty State Park license plate shall be made to the division on forms and in a manner as may be prescribed by the director. In order to be deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50 payable to the division, which fee shall be in addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the registration of the motor vehicle.

b. The annual fee for the registration certificate of a motor vehicle that has been issued a Liberty State Park license plate pursuant to the provisions of this act shall include in each year subsequent to the year of issuance a fee in the amount of \$10, which fee shall be in addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the renewal of the registration of the motor vehicle and shall be collected by the division and deposited in the Liberty State Park License Plate Fund created pursuant to section 4 of this act.

C.39:3-27.94 Liberty State Park License Plate Fund.

4. There is created in the Department of Environmental Protection a special non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Liberty State Park License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to section 3 of this act, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the division for administrative costs pursuant to section 5 of this act. Monies deposited in the fund shall be dedicated for support and funding of projects and programs at Liberty State Park. Monies deposited in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be invested or reinvested in such securities as are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned on monies deposited in the fund, and any monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set forth in this act.

C.39:3-27.95 Reimbursement to division; average cost per license plate.

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

(1) producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of Liberty State Park license plates; and

(2) any initial fees, in an amount conferred as necessary to the commissioner, collected from the issuance of Liberty State Park license plates to be allocated to the division to pay the cost of any computer programming changes that may be necessary to implement the Liberty State Park license plate program established by this act.

b. The director shall annually certify to the commissioner the average cost per license plate incurred in the immediately preceding year by the division in producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of Liberty State Park license plates. The annual certification of the average cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor.

c. In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by the director and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee established in subsection a. of section 3 of this act in two consecutive fiscal years, the director may discontinue the issuance of Liberty State Park license plates.

C.39:3-27.96 Notices to eligible motorists.

6. The director shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to obtain Liberty State Park license plates by including a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals, and by posting appropriate posters or signs in all division facilities and offices, as may be provided by the department. The notices, posters, and signs shall be designed by the commissioner. The designs shall be subject to the approval of the director, and the commissioner shall supply the division with the notices, posters, and signs to be circulated or posted by that division.

C.39:3-27.97 Interagency memorandum of agreement.

7. The commissioner, the director, and the State Treasurer shall develop and enter into an interagency memorandum of agreement setting forth the procedures to be followed by the departments and the division in carrying out their respective responsibilities under this act.

8. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment, but the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, the State Treasurer, and the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles may take such anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act upon the effective date thereof.

Approved August 13, 1997.