

SENATE, No. 480

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 22, 1996

By Senator GIRGENTI

1 AN ACT providing for the issuance of certain license plates for the  
2 purpose of assisting in the support and funding of State and local  
3 projects and programs concerned or associated with the Great Falls  
4 of the Passaic River, and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the  
5 Revised Statutes.

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

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10 1. As used in this act:

11 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Environmental  
12 Protection;

13 "Department" means the Department of Environmental Protection;

14 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in  
15 the Department of Law and Public Safety;

16 "Division" means the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department  
17 of Law and Public Safety;

18 "Fund" means the "Great Falls of the Passaic River License Plate  
19 Fund" created pursuant to section 4 of this act.

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21 2. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall, upon  
22 proper application therefor, issue Great Falls of the Passaic River  
23 license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered in  
24 the State. In addition to the registration number and other markings  
25 or identification otherwise prescribed by law, a Great Falls of the  
26 Passaic River license plate shall display words or a slogan and an  
27 emblem indicating support for, or an interest in, protecting, preserving,  
28 maintaining, or interpreting the Great Falls of the Passaic River. The  
29 words or slogan and emblem shall be chosen by the director; however,  
30 the director shall solicit, in conjunction with the Legislature, input  
31 from the general public on the design of the plate and shall review the  
32 submissions prior to choosing the design. Issuance of Great Falls of  
33 the Passaic River license plates in accordance with this section shall be  
34 subject to the limitations of section 3 of P.L.1959, c.56 (C.39:3-33.5)  
35 and other applicable requirements of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the

1 Revised Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

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3 3. a. Application for issuance of a Great Falls of the Passaic River  
4 license plate shall be made to the division on forms and in a manner as  
5 may be prescribed by the director. In order to be deemed complete,  
6 an application shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50 payable to the  
7 division, which fee shall be in addition to any fee otherwise prescribed  
8 by law for the registration of motor vehicles.

9 b. The annual fee for the registration certificate of a motor vehicle  
10 that has been issued a Great Falls of the Passaic River license plate  
11 pursuant to the provisions of this act shall include in each year  
12 subsequent to the year of issuance a fee in the amount of \$10, which  
13 fee shall be in addition to the fee for the renewal of the registration  
14 certificate and shall be collected by the division and deposited in the  
15 Great Falls of the Passaic River License Plate Fund created pursuant  
16 to section 4 of this act.

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18 4. There is created in the Department of Environmental Protection  
19 a special non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Great Falls of the  
20 Passaic River License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the  
21 fund the amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant  
22 to section 3 of this act, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the  
23 division for administrative costs pursuant to section 5 of this act.  
24 Monies deposited in the fund shall be dedicated for support and  
25 funding of State and local projects and programs concerned with  
26 protecting, preserving, maintaining, or interpreting the Great Falls of  
27 the Passaic River or any designated historic district or national  
28 heritage area associated therewith. Monies deposited in the fund shall  
29 be held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories as defined  
30 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be  
31 invested or reinvested in such securities as are approved by the State  
32 Treasurer. Interest or other income earned on monies deposited in the  
33 fund, and any monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become  
34 available for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and  
35 deposited in the fund for use as set forth in this act.

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

41 (1) producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of  
42 Great Falls of the Passaic River license plates; and

43 (2) any initial fees, in an amount conferred as necessary to the  
44 commissioner, collected from the issuance of Great Falls of the Passaic  
45 River license plates to be allocated to the division to pay the cost of  
46 any computer programming changes that may be necessary to

1 implement the Great Falls of the Passaic River license plate program  
2 established by this act.

3 b. The director shall annually certify to the commissioner the  
4 average cost per license plate incurred in the immediately preceding  
5 year by the division in producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing  
6 the availability of Great Falls of the Passaic River license plates. The  
7 annual certification of the average cost per license plate shall be  
8 approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor.

9 c. In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by  
10 the director and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee,  
11 or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee established in  
12 subsection a. of section 3 of this act in two consecutive fiscal years,  
13 the director may discontinue the issuance of Great Falls of the Passaic  
14 River license plates.

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16 6. The director shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to  
17 obtain Great Falls of the Passaic River license plates by including a  
18 notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals, and by posting  
19 appropriate posters or signs in all division facilities and offices, as may  
20 be provided by the department. The notices, posters, and signs shall  
21 be designed by the commissioner. The designs shall be subject to the  
22 approval of the director, and the commissioner shall supply the  
23 division with the notices, posters, and signs to be circulated or posted  
24 by that division.

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

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

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#### STATEMENT

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40 This bill would direct the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to  
41 establish a special Great Falls of the Passaic River license plate  
42 program. The special plates would contain markings or identification  
43 expressing the vehicle owner's support for, or interest in, protecting,  
44 preserving, maintaining, or interpreting the Great Falls of the Passaic  
45 River. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles would select  
46 the design of the license plate, after soliciting, in conjunction with the

1 Legislature, input from the general public and reviewing those  
2 submissions. A \$50 fee would be charged for the issuance of the  
3 plates, and an additional \$10 fee would be collected for each annual  
4 renewal.

5 The bill would create in the Department of Environmental  
6 Protection a special non-lapsing "Great Falls of the Passaic River  
7 License Plate Fund." All license plate fees collected pursuant to the  
8 bill, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the DMV for  
9 administrative costs as provided in the bill, would be deposited in the  
10 fund. Monies deposited in the fund would be dedicated for support  
11 and funding of State and local projects and programs concerned with  
12 protecting, preserving, maintaining, or interpreting the Great Falls of  
13 the Passaic River or any designated historic district or national  
14 heritage area associated therewith. Interest or other income earned on  
15 monies deposited in the fund, and any monies which may be  
16 appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the  
17 fund, would be credited to and deposited in the fund.

18 Costs incurred by the DMV in producing, issuing, renewing, and  
19 publicizing Great Falls of the Passaic River license plates, as annually  
20 certified by the director, would be reimbursed from the fees collected.  
21 The DMV would also be authorized to use a portion of the fees  
22 collected to pay for the cost of any computer programming changes  
23 that may be necessary to implement the license plate program.

24 The bill would direct the DMV to include in all mailings of motor  
25 vehicle registration renewals a notice of the availability of Great Falls  
26 of the Passaic River license plates.

27 The bill would require the Joint Budget Oversight Committee to  
28 approve the Division of Motor Vehicle's annual certification of the  
29 average cost to produce, issue, renew, and publicize the availability of  
30 a license plate. If the average annual cost exceeds \$50 for two  
31 consecutive fiscal years, the division would be authorized to  
32 discontinue the issuance of these license plates.

33 The Great Falls of the Passaic River is a unique natural wonder in  
34 the State. Funding sources are needed to ensure that this great  
35 resource is properly protected, preserved, maintained, and interpreted.  
36 This bill provides one such funding source by drawing on the good will  
37 of those citizens of the State who are willing to purchase special Great  
38 Falls of the Passaic River license plates to express their support for  
39 this very important urban natural resource.

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44 Establishes Great Falls of the Passaic River license plate; dedicates  
45 fees therefrom to support projects and programs concerned with Great  
46 Falls.