

SENATE, No. 541

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1996

By Senator BASSANO

1 AN ACT providing for the issuance of Game Fish license plates and
2 supplementing 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. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall, upon
8 proper application therefor, issue game fish license plates for any
9 motor vehicle owned or leased and registered in the State. In addition
10 to the registration number and other markings or identification
11 otherwise prescribed by law, a game fish license plate shall display the
12 words "game fish" and a depiction of a striped bass.

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14 2. Application for a game fish license plate shall be made to the
15 Division of Motor Vehicles on forms and in a manner prescribed by the
16 director and shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50, which shall be in
17 addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the registration of the
18 motor vehicle. The annual renewal of a registration certificate of a
19 motor vehicle that has been issued a game fish license plate shall be
20 accompanied by an additional fee of \$10. The \$50 application fee and
21 \$10 renewal fee shall be deposited by the division in the Game Fish
22 License Plate Fund created pursuant to section 3 of this act.

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24 3. There is created in the Department of Environmental Protection,
25 Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife a special non-lapsing fund to be
26 known as the "Game Fish License Plate Fund." There shall be
27 deposited into the fund the additional application and renewal fees
28 collected pursuant to section 2 of this act and any interest earned
29 thereon, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the division for
30 administrative costs pursuant to section 4 of this act. Monies
31 deposited in the fund shall be dedicated for marine fisheries
32 conservation management and research.

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34 4. a. Prior to the deposit of license plate fees collected pursuant
35 to section 2 of this act into the fund, amounts thereof as are necessary
36 shall be used to reimburse the Division of Motor Vehicles for costs
37 reasonably and actually incurred, as stipulated by the director for

1 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of game
2 fish license plates, including the cost of any initial computer
3 programming changes.

4 b. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall annually
5 certify to the Director of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife the
6 average cost per license plate incurred in the immediately preceding
7 year by the division in producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing
8 the availability of game fish license plates. The annual certification of
9 the average cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint
10 Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor.

11 c. In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by
12 the director and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee,
13 or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee established in
14 section 2 of this act in two consecutive fiscal years, the director may
15 discontinue the issuance of game fish license plates.

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17 5. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall notify
18 eligible motorists of the opportunity to obtain game fish license plates
19 by including a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals, and
20 by posting appropriate posters or signs in all division facilities and
21 offices, as may be provided by the Division of Fish, Game and
22 Wildlife. The notices, posters, and signs shall be designed by the
23 Director of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, subject to the
24 approval of the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles. The
25 Director of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife shall supply the
26 Division of Motor Vehicles with the notices, posters, and signs to be
27 circulated or posted by that division.

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29 6. The Directors of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the
30 Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, and the State Treasurer shall
31 develop and enter into an interagency memorandum of agreement
32 setting forth the procedures to be followed by the divisions in carrying
33 out their respective responsibilities under this act.

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35 7. This act shall take effect on the 180th day after enactment, but
36 the Director of the Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife, the State
37 Treasurer and the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles may take
38 such anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be necessary for
39 the timely implementation of this act upon the effective date thereof.

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STATEMENT

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44 This bill would direct the the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) in
45 the Department of Law and Public Safety to establish a special game
46 fish license plate program. The special plates would contain the words

1 "game fish" and a picture depicting a striped bass. A \$50 application
2 fee would be charged for the issuance of the plates, and an additional
3 \$10 fee would be collected for each annual renewal.

4 The bill would create in the Department of Environmental
5 Protection, Division of Fish, Game and Wildlife a special non-lapsing
6 "Game Fish License Plate Fund." All license plate fees collected
7 pursuant to the bill, less the amounts necessary to reimburse the DMV
8 for administrative costs as provided in the bill, would be deposited in
9 the fund. Monies deposited in the fund would be dedicated for marine
10 fisheries conservation, management and research.

11 Costs incurred by the DMV in producing, issuing, renewing, and
12 publicizing game fish license plates, as annually certified by the
13 director, would be reimbursed from the fees collected. DMV would
14 also be authorized to use a portion of the fees collected to pay for the
15 cost of any computer programming changes that may be necessary to
16 implement the license plate program.

17 The bill would direct the DMV to include in all mailings of motor
18 vehicle registration renewals a notice of the availability of game fish
19 license plates.

20 The bill would require the Joint Budget Oversight Committee to
21 approve the DMV's annual certification of the average cost to
22 produce, issue, renew, and publicize the availability of a license plate.
23 If the average annual cost exceeds \$50 for two consecutive fiscal
24 years, the division would be authorized to discontinue the issuance of
25 these license plates.

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30 Authorizes game fish license plate to support wildlife.