

SENATE, No. 1834

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 1997

By Senators SACCO, CAFIERO, O'Connor, Kenny, Girgenti
and Scott

1 AN ACT concerning special registration plates for the clergy 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. a. Upon application of any person who is a member of the
8 clergy in good standing of any religious corporation exempt from
9 taxation under Title 15 of the Revised Statutes, the director shall
10 issue, for the motor vehicle owned or leased by the person, distinctive
11 plates bearing [a design approved by the director] the word
12 "CLERGY" in addition to the registration number and other markings
13 or identification prescribed by law. [The plates shall bear the word
14 "CLERGY" and, if requested by the clergy member, depict the
15 standard symbol of the religion the clergy member represents. A \$15
16 fee shall be charged to the applicant for these special plates] An
17 application for these special plates shall be accompanied by a \$25 fee
18 payable to the division, in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by
19 law for the registration of motor vehicles. The applicant shall submit
20 proof, satisfactory to the director, that the applicant is a bonafide
21 member of the clergy and otherwise qualifies for the special plates
22 under this section.

23 b. A clergy member who has received special plates under this
24 section may display on the license plates the standard symbol of the
25 religion the clergy member represents if the symbol has been approved
26 by the director. The director may promulgate rules and regulations
27 governing the use, design, material and placement of the symbol on the
28 license plate issued for the motor vehicle owned or leased by the
29 bonafide member of the clergy.

30 c. In the event the director determines that infrequent requests for
31 the "clergy" license plate no longer warrant its production, the director
32 may discontinue the issuance of the license plate.

33 d. The application fee collected pursuant to subsection a. of this

EXPLANATION - Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not
enacted and intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 section shall be retained by the division to cover its costs for
2 producing and issuing "clergy" license plates.

3 e. The director may promulgate rules and regulations governing the
4 issuance and use of these registration plates.

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6 2. This act shall become effective on the first day of the fifth month
7 after enactment, but the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles
8 may take such anticipatory acts in advance of that date as may be
9 necessary for the timely implementation of this act.

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STATEMENT

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14 This bill provides for the issuance of special license plates for
15 members of the clergy who qualify under its provisions. The plates
16 would bear the word "Clergy." A clergy member may display the
17 standard symbol of the religion the clergy member represents on the
18 plate if the symbol has been approved by the Director of the Division
19 of Motor Vehicles. A \$25 fee would be charged in addition to the
20 usual registration fees for the vehicle bearing the plates.

21 The bill authorizes the director to promulgate rules and regulations
22 concerning the use, design, material and placement of religious
23 symbols on the "clergy" license plates. The bills also authorizes the
24 director to discontinue issuance of "clergy" license plates should there
25 be little demand for the plates.

26 Finally, the bill provides that the application fee collected be
27 retained by the division to covers its costs for producing and issuing
28 "clergy" license plates.

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33 Provides special license plates for clergy.