

SENATE, No. 1858

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 3, 1997

By Senator SINGER

1 AN ACT concerning special substance abuse assessment and treatment  
2 plates and supplementing chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised  
3 Statutes.

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

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8 1. a. The Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall, upon  
9 proper application therefor, issue substance abuse assessment and  
10 treatment license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and  
11 registered in this State. In addition to the registration number and  
12 other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, a  
13 substance abuse assessment and treatment license plate shall display  
14 words or a slogan and an emblem indicating support for, and an interest  
15 in, establishing assessment and treatment programs for parents with  
16 substance abuse problems who have had their children removed from  
17 the home due to a finding of abuse or neglect. The words or slogan  
18 and emblem shall be chosen by the director, in consultation with the  
19 Commissioner of Human Services. Issuance of substance abuse  
20 assessment and treatment license plates shall be subject to all  
21 applicable requirements of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised  
22 Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

23 b. The director shall collect a \$50 application fee for the substance  
24 abuse assessment and treatment license plates in addition to the fees  
25 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle.  
26 The director annually shall collect subsequent to the year of issuance  
27 of the license plate a \$10 fee for the license plate in addition to the fees  
28 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor vehicle.  
29 The additional fees required by this subsection shall be deposited into  
30 the Substance Abuse Assessment and Treatment License Plate Fund  
31 established pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

32 c. There is created in the Department of Treasury a special non-  
33 lapsing fund to be known as the "Substance Abuse Assessment and  
34 Treatment License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund  
35 the amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to  
36 subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to reimburse  
37 the division for administrative costs pursuant to subsection d. of this  
38 section. Moneys deposited in the fund shall be dedicated exclusively

1 to funding the substance abuse assessment and treatment programs  
2 required by P.L. , c. (C. ) (now pending before the Legislature as  
3 the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 996 and 1355).  
4 Moneys deposited in the fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts  
5 in public depositories as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970,  
6 c.236 (C.17:9-41) and may be invested or reinvested in such securities  
7 as are approved by the State Treasurer. Interest or other income earned  
8 on moneys deposited into the fund, and any moneys which may be  
9 appropriated or otherwise become available for the purposes of the  
10 fund, shall be credited to and deposited in the fund for use as set forth  
11 in this act.

12 d. Prior to the deposit of license plate fees collected pursuant to  
13 subsection b. of this section into the fund, amounts thereof as are  
14 necessary shall be used to reimburse the division for all costs  
15 reasonably and actually incurred, as stipulated by the director, for:

16 (1) producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the availability of  
17 substance abuse assessment and treatment license plates; and

18 (2) any initial fees, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, collected  
19 from the issuance of substance abuse assessment and treatment license  
20 plates to be allocated to the division to pay the cost of any computer  
21 programming changes that may be necessary to implement the  
22 substance abuse assessment and treatment license plate program  
23 established by this act.

24 The director shall annually certify to the State Treasurer the average  
25 cost per license plate incurred in the immediately preceding year by the  
26 division in producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the  
27 availability of substance abuse assessment and treatment license plates.  
28 The annual certification of the average cost per license plate shall be  
29 approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor.

30 If the average cost per license plate as certified by the director and  
31 approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor is  
32 greater than the \$50 application fee established in subsection b. of this  
33 section in two consecutive fiscal years, the director may discontinue  
34 the issuance of substance abuse assessment and treatment license  
35 plates.

36 e. The director shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to  
37 obtain substance abuse assessment and treatment license plates by  
38 including a notice with all motor vehicle registration renewals, and by  
39 posting appropriate posters or signs in all division facilities and offices,  
40 as may be provided by the department. The notices, posters and signs  
41 shall be designed by the division in consultation with the  
42 commissioner.

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

