

SENATE, No. 1968

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 1997

By Senator SINGER

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

21 b. The director shall collect a \$50 application fee for the child
22 protection license plates in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed
23 by law for the registration of the motor vehicle. The director shall
24 collect annually subsequent to the year of issuance of the license plate
25 a \$10 fee for the license plate in addition to the fees otherwise
26 prescribed by law for the registration of the motor vehicle. The
27 additional fees required by this subsection shall be deposited into the
28 Child Protection License Plate Fund established pursuant to subsection
29 c. of this section.

30 c. There is created in the Department of Treasury a special non-
31 lapsing fund to be known as the "Child Protection License Plate
32 Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the amount collected from
33 all license plate fees collected pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
34 less the amounts necessary to reimburse the division for administrative
35 costs pursuant to subsection d. of this section. Moneys deposited in
36 the fund shall be dedicated exclusively to funding the substance abuse
37 assessment and treatment programs required by P.L. , c. (C.)

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

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

15 (1) producing, issuing, renewing and publicizing the availability of
16 child protection license plates; and

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

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

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

33 e. The director shall notify eligible motorists of the opportunity to
34 obtain child protection license plates by including a notice with all
35 motor vehicle registration renewals, and by posting appropriate
36 posters or signs in all division facilities and offices, as may be provided
37 by the department. The notices, posters and signs shall be designed by
38 the division in consultation with the commissioner.

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

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44 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the sixth month after
45 enactment, but the director may take such anticipatory acts in advance
46 of that date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this

1 act upon its effective date.

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STATEMENT

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6 This bill requires the Director of the Division of Motor Vehicles in
7 the Department of Transportation to issue special child protection
8 license plates to persons interested in establishing programs to assess
9 and treat parents with substance abuse problems who have had their
10 children removed from the home due to abuse or neglect. In addition
11 to the registration number and other markings or identification
12 prescribed by law, a child protection license plate would display words
13 or a slogan and an emblem chosen by the director, in consultation with
14 the Commissioner of Human Services.

15 An application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 would
16 be required for the special plates in addition to all fees otherwise
17 required by law for the registration of the motor vehicle. These
18 additional fees, after the deduction of the cost of producing and
19 publicizing the plates, are to be deposited in a special non-lapsing
20 account known as the "Child Protection License Plate Fund." The
21 proceeds are to be dedicated exclusively to funding substance abuse
22 assessment and treatment programs established pursuant to pending
23 legislation, the Senate Committee Substitute for Senate Bill Nos. 996
24 and 1355. That bill requires parents who have had their children
25 removed from the home due to a finding of abuse or neglect to be
26 assessed and, when necessary, treated for substance abuse problems.
27 The return of the child to the parental home is conditioned upon the
28 parent's receipt of treatment and compliance with a treatment program.

29 The director is required to certify the average cost per unit in
30 producing, issuing and publicizing the child protection license plates
31 each year. If the average cost exceeds \$50 for two consecutive fiscal
32 years, the director may discontinue the license plate program. The
33 director would also be responsible for notifying eligible motorists of
34 the availability of the plates.

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39 Establishes special child protection license plate to fund substance
40 abuse programs for certain parents.