

# ASSEMBLY, No. 5928

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 24, 2021

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman BRIAN BERGEN**

**District 25 (Morris and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Dancer**

**SYNOPSIS**

Authorizes issuance of Operation Desert Storm license plates.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/24/2021)

1 AN ACT authorizing the issuance of Operation Desert Storm license  
2 plates and supplementing Title 39 of the Revised Statutes.

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the  
8 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue Operation  
9 Desert Storm license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased  
10 and registered in this State. In addition to the registration number  
11 and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law,  
12 the license plate shall display the words and images that honor the  
13 members of the military that served in Operation Desert Storm. The  
14 chief administrator, in consultation with the Adjutant General of the  
15 New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs, shall  
16 select the design of the Operation Desert Storm license plates. The  
17 Operation Desert Storm license plates shall be subject to the  
18 provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as  
19 hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

20 b. Application for issuance of Operation Desert Storm license  
21 plates shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a  
22 manner prescribed by the chief administrator. The application shall  
23 include proof satisfactory to the chief administrator that the  
24 applicant served in Operation Desert Storm as certified on the  
25 applicant's DD-214 form or on a Certificate of Release or Discharge  
26 from Active Duty. In order to be deemed complete, an application  
27 shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50, payable to the New Jersey  
28 Motor Vehicle Commission, which shall be in addition to the fee  
29 otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of motor vehicles.  
30 The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the  
31 year of issuance of the Operation Desert Storm license plate, a \$10  
32 fee for the license plate in addition to the fee otherwise prescribed  
33 by law for the registration of a motor vehicle. The additional fees  
34 required by this subsection shall be deposited in the "Operation  
35 Desert Storm License Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c.  
36 of this section.

37 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special  
38 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "Operation Desert Storm  
39 License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund the  
40 amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant to  
41 subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to  
42 reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to  
43 subsection d. of this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be  
44 appropriated annually to the New Jersey Department of Military  
45 and Veterans' Affairs and shall be used to support programs  
46 benefiting combat veterans. Monies deposited in the fund shall be  
47 held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories as defined

1 pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and may be  
2 invested or reinvested in securities approved by the State Treasurer.  
3 Interest or other income earned on monies deposited into the fund,  
4 and any monies which may be appropriated or otherwise become  
5 available for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and  
6 deposited in the fund for use as set forth in P.L. , c. (C. )  
7 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

8 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant  
9 to subsection b. of this section into the "Operation Desert Storm  
10 License Plate Fund," amounts thereof as are necessary shall be used  
11 to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably and actually  
12 incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator, for:

13 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the  
14 availability of the Operation Desert Storm license plates; and

15 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially  
16 necessary to implement the Operation Desert Storm license plate  
17 program established by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
18 Legislature as this bill), in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

19 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State  
20 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the  
21 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,  
22 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the Operation  
23 Desert Storm license plates. The annual certification of the average  
24 cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget  
25 Oversight Committee, or its successor.

26 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by  
27 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight  
28 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee  
29 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal  
30 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of  
31 Operation Desert Storm license plates.

32 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the  
33 opportunity to obtain Operation Desert Storm license plates by  
34 publicizing the availability of the license plates on the website of  
35 the commission. The New Jersey Department of Military and  
36 Veterans' Affairs, and any other individual or entity designated by  
37 the department, may publicize the availability of the Operation  
38 Desert Storm license plates in any manner that the department  
39 deems appropriate.

40 f. The chief administrator and adjutant general shall develop  
41 and enter into an interdepartmental memorandum of agreement  
42 setting forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their  
43 respective responsibilities under P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending  
44 before the Legislature as this bill).

45 g. The adjutant general shall appoint a representative who shall  
46 act as a liaison between the New Jersey Department of Military and  
47 Veterans' Affairs and the commission. The liaison shall represent

1 the department in any and all communications with the commission  
2 regarding the Operation Desert Storm license plates established by  
3 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4  
5 2. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the commission  
6 for the initial cost of:

7 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the  
8 availability of Operation Desert Storm license plates; or

9 (2) any computer programming changes which may be  
10 necessary to implement the Operation Desert Storm license plate  
11 program established by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
12 Legislature as this bill).

13 b. An individual or entity designated by the New Jersey  
14 Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs shall contribute non-  
15 public monies in an amount to be determined by the chief  
16 administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to offset  
17 the initial costs incurred by the commission for designing,  
18 producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of Operation  
19 Desert Storm license plates, and any computer programming which  
20 may be necessary to implement the program. Concerned  
21 organizations and individual donors may contribute monies to the  
22 department to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the  
23 commission for the Operation Desert Storm license plates  
24 authorized by P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the  
25 Legislature as this bill). Any amount remaining after the payment  
26 of the initial cost shall be deposited in the "Operation Desert Storm  
27 License Plate Fund" established pursuant to subsection c. of section  
28 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
29 bill).

30 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,  
31 issuing, or publicizing the availability of the Operation Desert  
32 Storm license plates, or making any necessary programming  
33 changes, until the following requirements have been met:

34 (1) The individual or entity designated by the Department of  
35 Military and Veterans' Affairs has provided the commission with  
36 the non-public monies necessary, as determined by the chief  
37 administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to offset the  
38 initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing the  
39 Operation Desert Storm license plate program; and

40 (2) The liaison appointed by the Adjutant General pursuant to  
41 subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before  
42 the Legislature as this bill) has provided the commission with not  
43 less than 500 completed applications for the Operation Desert  
44 Storm license plates. These applications shall constitute the initial  
45 order for the Operation Desert Storm license plates and shall be  
46 accompanied by a fee representing the total cost of the initial order.  
47 The fee shall be determined by multiplying the number of sets of

1 license plates being ordered by the applicable initial fee for each set  
2 of license plates as set forth in subsection b. of section 1 of  
3 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

4  
5 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain  
6 inoperative until the first day of the 13th month following the date  
7 on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of  
8 subsection c. of section 2 of this act have been satisfied. The chief  
9 administrator may take anticipatory actions in advance of that date  
10 as may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act. This  
11 act shall expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2)  
12 of subsection c. of section 2 of this act are not satisfied by the last  
13 day of the 12th month following enactment.

#### 14 15 16 STATEMENT

17  
18 This bill authorizes special Operation Desert Storm license  
19 plates. The license plate is to display the words and images that  
20 honor members of the military that served in Operation Desert  
21 Storm, which was a military operation to defend and expel Iraqi  
22 forces that invaded Kuwait. An application to obtain Operation  
23 Desert Storm license plates is to include satisfactory proof that the  
24 applicant served in Operation Desert Storm. In addition to the  
25 required motor vehicle registration fees, there is an application fee  
26 of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the Operation Desert  
27 Storm license plates. After deducting the cost to implement the  
28 license plates, the additional fees collected are to be deposited into  
29 the "Operation Desert Storm License Fund" and the funds are to be  
30 appropriated annually to the New Jersey Department of Military  
31 and Veterans' Affairs (department) for programs to benefit combat  
32 veterans.

33 The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle  
34 Commission (commission) is required to annually certify the  
35 average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the  
36 availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per  
37 plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief  
38 administrator may discontinue the license plate program.

39 The bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be  
40 used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the  
41 Operation Desert Storm license plate program. The bill requires that  
42 an individual or entity designated by the department contribute non-  
43 public monies, not to exceed \$25,000, to offset the initial cost to  
44 design, produce, issue, and publicize the license plates and for any  
45 computer programming necessary to implement the program. The  
46 bill authorizes the department to receive funds from private sources  
47 to be used to offset the initial costs.

**A5928 BERGEN**

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1       The commission is not required to design, produce, issue, or  
2 publicize the availability of the license plates or make any  
3 necessary programming changes, until: (1) the individual or entity  
4 designated by the department has provided the commission with the  
5 money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred by the  
6 commission in establishing the license plate program; and (2) the  
7 liaison appointed by the department has provided the commission  
8 with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the license  
9 plates.

10       The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first  
11 day of the 13th month following the date on which the money to  
12 offset the initial costs to establish the license plate program and a  
13 minimum of 500 applications are provided to the commission. The  
14 bill expires on the last day of the 12th month after enactment if  
15 sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial costs are not  
16 received by that date.