

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 704

Short Title: Sheriff's Registration Plates.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Thompson; Baddour, Bowie, Brawley, Buchanan, Clary, Crawford, Davis, Hiatt, Hill, Howard, Hurley, Ives, Justus, Kiser, McCombs, McCrary, Mercer, Mitchell, Nichols, Owens, Russell, Sexton, Sherrill, Starnes, and Tolson.

Referred to: Transportation, if favorable, Judiciary I.

March 31, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES FOR SHERIFFS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 20-79.4(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Types. – The Division shall issue the following types of special registration plates:

(1) Administrative Officer of the Courts. – Issuable to the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. The plate shall bear the phrase 'J-20'.

(2) Amateur Radio Operator. – Issuable to an amateur radio operator who holds an unexpired and unrevoked amateur radio license issued by the Federal Communications Commission and who asserts to the Division that a portable transceiver is carried in the vehicle. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Amateur Radio'. The plate shall bear the operator's official amateur radio call letters, or call letters with numerical or letter suffixes so that an owner of more than one vehicle may have the call letters on each.

- 1 (2a) American Legion. – Issuable to a member of the American Legion. The
2 plate shall bear the words ‘American Legion’ and the emblem of the
3 American Legion. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by
4 this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.
- 5 (3) Civil Air Patrol Member. – Issuable to an active member of the North
6 Carolina Wing of the Civil Air Patrol. The plate shall bear the phrase
7 ‘Civil Air Patrol’. A plate issued to an officer member shall begin with
8 the number ‘201’ and the number shall reflect the seniority of the
9 member; a plate issued to an enlisted member, a senior member, or a
10 cadet member shall begin with the number ‘501’.
- 11 (3a) Civic Club. – Issuable to a member of a nationally recognized civic
12 organization whose member clubs in the State are exempt from State
13 corporate income tax under G.S. 105-130.11(a)(5). Examples of these
14 clubs include Jaycees, Kiwanis, Optimist, Rotary, Ruritan, and Shrine.
15 The plate shall bear a word or phrase identifying the civic club and the
16 emblem of the civic club. The Division may not issue a civic club plate
17 authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications
18 for that civic club plate.
- 19 (4) Class D Citizen's Radio Station Operator. – Issuable to a Class D
20 citizen's radio station operator. For an operator who has been issued
21 Class D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal
22 Communications Commission, the plate shall bear the operator's official
23 Class D citizen's radio station call letters. For an operator who has not
24 been issued Class D citizen's radio station call letters by the Federal
25 Communications Commission, the plate shall bear the phrase ‘Citizen's
26 Band Radio’.
- 27 (5) Clerk of Superior Court. – Issuable to a current or retired clerk of
28 superior court. A plate issued to a current clerk shall bear the phrase
29 ‘Clerk Superior Court’ and the letter ‘C’ followed by a number that
30 indicates the county the clerk serves. A plate issued to a retired clerk
31 shall bear the phrase ‘Clerk Superior Court, Retired’, the letter ‘C’
32 followed by a number that indicates the county the clerk served, and the
33 letter ‘X’ indicating the clerk's retired status.
- 34 (6) Coast Guard Auxiliary Member. – Issuable to an active member of the
35 United States Coast Guard Auxiliary. The plate shall bear the phrase
36 ‘Coast Guard Auxiliary’.
- 37 (6a) Collegiate Insignia Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
38 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase
39 or an insignia representing a public or private college or university.
- 40 (7) County Commissioner. – Issuable to a county commissioner of a county
41 in this State. The plate shall bear the words ‘County Commissioner’
42 followed first by a number representing the commissioner's county and
43 then by a letter or number that distinguishes plates issued to county

1 commissioners of the same county. The number of a county shall be the
2 order of the county in an alphabetical list of counties that assigns
3 number one to the first county in the list and a letter or number to
4 distinguish different cars owned by the county commissioners in that
5 county. The Division may not issue the plate authorized by this
6 subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the plate.

7 (8) Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the
8 United States who suffered a 100% service-connected disability.

9 (9) District Attorney. – Issuable to a North Carolina or United States
10 District Attorney. The plate issuable to a North Carolina district attorney
11 shall bear the letters 'DA' followed by a number that represents the
12 prosecutorial district the district attorney serves. The plate for a United
13 States attorney shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Attorney' followed by a
14 number that represents the district the attorney serves, with 1 being the
15 Eastern District, 2 being the Middle District, and 3 being the Western
16 District.

17 (10) Fire Department or Rescue Squad Member. – Issuable to an active
18 regular member or volunteer member of a fire department, rescue squad,
19 or both a fire department and rescue squad. The plate shall bear the
20 words 'Firefighter', 'Rescue Squad', or 'Firefighter-Rescue Squad'.

21 (10a) Future Farmers of America. – Issuable to a member or a supporter of the
22 National Future Farmers of America Organization. The plate shall bear
23 the emblem of the organization and the letters 'FFA'. The Division may
24 not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at
25 least 300 applications for the plate.

26 (11) Historic Vehicle Owner. – Issuable for a motor vehicle that is at least 35
27 years old measured from the date of manufacture. The plate for an
28 historic vehicle shall bear the word 'Antique' unless the vehicle is a
29 model year 1943 or older. The plate for a vehicle that is a model year
30 1943 or older shall bear the word 'Antique' or the words 'Horseless
31 Carriage', at the option of the vehicle owner.

32 (11a) Historical Attraction Plate. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
33 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase
34 or an insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit historical
35 attraction located in North Carolina.

36 (12) Honorary Plate. – Issuable to a member of the Honorary Consular
37 Corps, who has been certified by the U. S. State Department, the plate
38 shall bear the words 'Honorary Consular Corps' and a distinguishing
39 number based on the order of issuance.

40 (13) Judge or Justice. – Issuable to a sitting or retired judge or justice in
41 accordance with G.S. 20-79.6.

42 (13a) Legion of Valor. – Issuable to a recipient of one of the following
43 military decorations: the Congressional Medal of Honor, the

- 1 Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, or the Air Force Cross.
2 The plate shall bear the emblem and name of the recipient's decoration.
- 3 (14) Legislator. – Issuable to a member of the North Carolina General
4 Assembly. The plate shall bear 'The Great Seal of the State of North
5 Carolina' and, as appropriate, the word 'Senate' or 'House' followed by
6 the Senator's or Representative's assigned seat number.
- 7 (15) Marshal. – Issuable to a United States Marshal. The plate shall bear the
8 phrase 'U.S. Marshal' followed by a number that represents the district
9 the Marshal serves, with 1 being the Eastern District, 2 being the Middle
10 District, and 3 being the Western District.
- 11 (16) Military Reservist. – Issuable to a member of a reserve component of
12 the armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the name and
13 insignia of the appropriate reserve component. Plates shall be numbered
14 sequentially for members of a component with the numbers 1 through
15 5000 reserved for officers, without regard to rank.
- 16 (16a) Military Retiree. – Issuable to an individual who has retired from the
17 armed forces of the United States. The plate shall bear the word
18 'Retired' and the name and insignia of the branch of service from which
19 the individual retired. The Division may not issue the plate authorized
20 by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300 applications for the
21 plate.
- 22 (17) National Guard Member. – Issuable to an active or a retired member of
23 the North Carolina National Guard. The plate shall bear the phrase
24 'National Guard'. A plate issued to an active member shall bear a
25 number that reflects the seniority of the member; a plate issued to a
26 commissioned officer shall begin with the number '1'; a plate issued to a
27 noncommissioned officer with a rank of E7, E8, or E9 shall begin with
28 the number '1601'; a plate issued to an enlisted member with a rank of
29 E6 or below shall begin with the number '3001'. The plate issued to a
30 retired or separated member shall indicate the member's retired status.
- 31 (17a) Olympic Games. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in
32 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or insignia
33 representing the Olympic Games.
- 34 (18) Partially Disabled Veteran. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces
35 of the United States who suffered a service connected disability of less
36 than 100%.
- 37 (19) Pearl Harbor Survivor. – Issuable to a veteran of the armed forces of the
38 United States who was present at and survived the attack on Pearl
39 Harbor on December 7, 1941. The plate will bear the phrase 'Pearl
40 Harbor Survivor' and the insignia of the Pearl Harbor Survivors'
41 Association.
- 42 (20) Personalized. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle. The
43 plate will bear the letters or letters and numbers requested by the owner.

- 1 The Division may refuse to issue a plate with a letter combination that is
2 offensive to good taste and decency. The Division may not issue a plate
3 that duplicates another plate.
- 4 (21) Prisoner of War. – Issuable to the following:
- 5 a. A member or veteran member of the armed forces of the United
6 States who has been captured and held prisoner by forces hostile
7 to the United States while serving in the armed forces.
- 8 b. The surviving spouse of a person who had a prisoner of war plate
9 at the time of death so long as the surviving spouse continues to
10 renew the plate and does not remarry.
- 11 (21a) Professional Sports Fan. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
12 vehicle. The plate shall bear the logo of a professional sports team
13 located in North Carolina. The Division shall receive 300 or more
14 applications for a professional sports fan plate before a plate may be
15 issued. The Division shall not develop a professional sports fan plate
16 unless the professional sports team licenses, without charge, the State to
17 use the official team logo on the plate.
- 18 (22) Purple Heart Recipient. – Issuable to a recipient of the Purple Heart
19 award. The plate shall bear the phrase 'Purple Heart Veteran, Combat
20 Wounded' and the letters 'PH'.
- 21 (22a) Register of Deeds. – Issuable to a register of deeds. The plate shall bear
22 the words 'Register of Deeds' and the letter 'R' followed by a number
23 representing the county of the register of deeds. The number of a county
24 shall be the order of the county in an alphabetical list of counties that
25 assigns number one to the first county in the list.
- 26 (22a1) Sheriff. – Issuable to a current sheriff or a retired sheriff who served as
27 sheriff for 10 or more years. A plate issued to a current sheriff shall
28 bear the phrase 'Sheriff' and the letter 'S' followed by a number that
29 indicates the county the sheriff serves. A plate issued to a retired sheriff
30 who served for 10 or more years shall bear the phrase 'Sheriff, Retired'
31 and the letters 'SX' followed by the number that indicates the county the
32 sheriff served.
- 33 (22b) Special Olympics. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle
34 in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an
35 insignia representing the North Carolina Special Olympics.
- 36 (22c) Square Dance Clubs. – Issuable to a member of a recognized square
37 dance organization exempt from corporate income tax under G.S. 105-
38 130.11(a)(5). The plate shall bear a word or phrase identifying the club
39 and the emblem of the club. The Division shall not issue a dance club
40 plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300
41 applications for that dance club plate.
- 42 (23) State Government Official. – Issuable to elected and appointed members
43 of State government in accordance with G.S. 20-79.5.

- 1 (23a) State Attraction. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor vehicle in
2 accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate may bear a phrase or an
3 insignia representing a publicly owned or nonprofit State attraction
4 located in North Carolina.
- 5 (24) Street Rod Owner. – Issuable to the registered owner of a modernized
6 private passenger motor vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949 or
7 designed to resemble a vehicle manufactured prior to the year 1949. The
8 plate shall bear the phrase 'Street Rod'. The Division may not issue the
9 plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives at least 300
10 applications for the plate.
- 11 (25) Transportation Personnel. – Issuable to various members of the
12 Divisions of the Department of Transportation. The plate shall bear the
13 letters 'DOT' followed by a number from 1 to 85, as designated by the
14 Governor.
- 15 (26) U.S. Representative. – Issuable to a United States Representative for
16 North Carolina. The plate shall bear the phrase 'U.S. House' and shall
17 be issued on the basis of Congressional district numbers.
- 18 (27) U.S. Senator. – Issuable to a United States Senator for North Carolina.
19 The plates shall bear the phrase 'U.S. Senate' and shall be issued on the
20 basis of seniority represented by the numbers 1 and 2.
- 21 (28) Veterans of Foreign Wars. – Issuable to a member or a supporter of the
22 Veterans of Foreign Wars. The plate shall bear the words 'Veterans of
23 Foreign Wars' or 'VFW' and the emblem of the VFW. The Division
24 may not issue the plate authorized by this subdivision unless it receives
25 at least 300 applications for the plate.
- 26 (29) Wildlife Resources. – Issuable to the registered owner of a motor
27 vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-81.12. The plate shall bear a picture
28 representing a native wildlife species occurring in North Carolina."
29 Section 2. This act becomes effective December 1, 1997.