

SENATE, No. 2394

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 24, 2022

Sponsored by:

Senator CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS

District 9 (Atlantic, Burlington and Ocean)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of New Jersey Maritime Museum license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT authorizing the creation of New Jersey Maritime Museum
2 license plates and supplementing Title 39 of the Revised
3 Statutes.

4

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

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8 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
9 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue New Jersey
10 Maritime Museum license plates for any motor vehicle owned or
11 leased and registered in this State. In addition to the registration
12 number and other markings or identification otherwise prescribed
13 by law, the license plates shall display words or a slogan and an
14 emblem indicating support for, or an interest in, the New Jersey
15 Maritime Museum. The chief administrator shall, in consultation
16 with the New Jersey Maritime Museum, select the design and color
17 scheme of the New Jersey Maritime Museum license plates. New
18 Jersey Maritime Museum license plates shall be subject to the
19 provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes, except as
20 hereinafter otherwise provided.

21 b. Application for issuance of New Jersey Maritime Museum
22 license plates shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and
23 in a manner prescribed by the chief administrator. In order to be
24 deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee of
25 \$50, payable to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, which
26 shall be in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the
27 registration of a motor vehicle. The chief administrator shall collect
28 annually, subsequent to the year of issuance of the New Jersey
29 Maritime Museum license plates, a \$10 fee for the license plates in
30 addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration
31 of a motor vehicle. The additional fees required by this subsection
32 shall be deposited in the "New Jersey Maritime Museum License
33 Plate Fund" created pursuant to subsection c. of this section.

34 c. There is created in the Department of the Treasury a special
35 non-lapsing fund to be known as the "New Jersey Maritime
36 Museum License Plate Fund." There shall be deposited in the fund
37 the amount collected from all license plate fees collected pursuant
38 to subsection b. of this section, less the amounts necessary to
39 reimburse the commission for administrative costs pursuant to
40 subsection d. of this section. Monies deposited in the fund shall be
41 appropriated annually to the New Jersey Maritime Museum to be
42 used to support and maintain the museum. Monies deposited in the
43 fund shall be held in interest-bearing accounts in public depositories
44 as defined pursuant to section 1 of P.L.1970, c.236 (C.17:9-41), and
45 may be invested or reinvested in securities approved by the State
46 Treasurer. Interest or other income earned on monies deposited into
47 the fund, and any monies which may be appropriated or otherwise
48 become available for purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and

1 deposited in the fund for use as set forth in P.L. , c. (C.)
2 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

3 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant
4 to subsection b. of this section into the “New Jersey Maritime
5 Museum License Plate Fund,” amounts thereof as are necessary
6 shall be used to reimburse the commission for all costs reasonably
7 and actually incurred, as stipulated by the chief administrator for:

8 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
9 availability of the New Jersey Maritime Museum license plates; and

10 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
11 necessary to implement the New Jersey Maritime Museum license
12 plate program in an amount not to exceed \$150,000.

13 The chief administrator shall annually certify to the State
14 Treasurer the average cost per license plate incurred in the
15 immediately preceding year by the commission in producing,
16 issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the New
17 Jersey Maritime Museum license plates. The annual certification of
18 the average cost per license plate shall be approved by the Joint
19 Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor.

20 In the event that the average cost per license plate as certified by
21 the chief administrator and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
22 Committee, or its successor, is greater than the \$50 application fee
23 established in subsection b. of this section in two consecutive fiscal
24 years, the chief administrator may discontinue the issuance of New
25 Jersey Maritime Museum license plates.

26 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
27 opportunity to obtain New Jersey Maritime Museum license plates
28 by publicizing the availability of the license plates on the
29 commission’s website. The New Jersey Maritime Museum and any
30 other individual or entity designated by the New Jersey Maritime
31 Museum, may publicize the availability of the New Jersey Maritime
32 Museum license plates in any manner that the New Jersey Maritime
33 Museum deems appropriate.

34 f. The chief administrator and the New Jersey Maritime
35 Museum shall develop and enter into a memorandum of agreement
36 setting forth the procedures to be followed in carrying out their
37 respective responsibilities under P.L. , c., (C.) (pending
38 before the Legislature as this bill).

39 g. The New Jersey Maritime Museum shall appoint a
40 representative who shall act as a liaison between the New Jersey
41 Maritime Museum and the commission. The liaison shall represent
42 the New Jersey Maritime Museum in any and all communications
43 with the commission regarding the New Jersey Maritime Museum
44 license plates established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
45 the Legislature as this bill).

46

47 2. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the commission
48 for the initial cost of:

1 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
2 availability of New Jersey Maritime Museum license plates; or

3 (2) any computer programming changes which may be necessary
4 to implement the New Jersey Maritime Museum license plate
5 program established by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
6 Legislature as this bill).

7 b. The New Jersey Maritime Museum or an individual or entity
8 designated by the New Jersey Maritime Museum, shall contribute
9 non-public monies in an amount to be determined by the chief
10 administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be used to offset
11 the initial costs incurred by the commission for designing,
12 producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of New Jersey
13 Maritime Museum license plates, and any computer programming
14 which may be necessary to implement the program. Concerned
15 organizations and individual donors may contribute monies to the
16 New Jersey Maritime Museum to be used to offset the initial costs
17 incurred by the commission for the New Jersey Maritime Museum
18 license plates authorized by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
19 the Legislature as this bill).

20 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
21 issuing, or publicizing the availability of New Jersey Maritime
22 Museum license plates, or making any necessary programming
23 changes, until the following requirements have been met:

24 (1) The New Jersey Maritime Museum or an individual or entity
25 designated by the New Jersey Maritime Museum, has provided the
26 commission with the non-public monies necessary, as determined
27 by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b. of this section,
28 to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in establishing
29 the New Jersey Maritime Museum license plate program; and

30 (2) The liaison appointed by the New Jersey Maritime Museum
31 pursuant to subsection g. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
32 (pending before the Legislature as this bill) has provided the
33 commission with not less than 500 completed applications for New
34 Jersey Maritime Museum license plates. These applications shall
35 constitute the initial order for New Jersey Maritime Museum license
36 plates and shall be accompanied by a fee representing the total cost
37 of the initial order. The fee shall be determined by multiplying the
38 number of sets of license plates being ordered by the applicable
39 initial fee for each set of license plates as set forth in subsection b.
40 of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
41 Legislature as this bill).

42
43 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
44 inoperative until the first day of the 13th month following the date
45 on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
46 subsection c. of section 2 of this act have been satisfied. The chief
47 administrator may take anticipatory acts in advance of that date as
48 may be necessary for the timely implementation of this act. This act

1 shall expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
2 subsection c. of section 2 of this act are not satisfied by the last day
3 of the 12th month following enactment.

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5
6 **STATEMENT**
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8 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
9 Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to issue special New
10 Jersey Maritime Museum license plates.

11 The bill provides that the design of the New Jersey Maritime
12 Museum license plate is to display words or a slogan and an
13 emblem indicating support for, or an interest in, the New Jersey
14 Maritime Museum. The chief administrator, in consultation with the
15 New Jersey Maritime Museum, is to select the design and color
16 scheme of the New Jersey Maritime Museum license plates.

17 In addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the
18 registration of a motor vehicle, there is an application fee of \$50
19 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the New Jersey Maritime
20 Museum license plates. After the deduction of the cost of designing,
21 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates and of any
22 computer programming changes that are necessary to implement the
23 license plate program, additional fees will be deposited into a
24 special non-lapsing fund known as the "New Jersey Maritime
25 Museum License Plate Fund." The proceeds of the fund are to be
26 annually appropriated to the New Jersey Maritime Museum to be
27 used to support and maintain the museum.

28 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
29 average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
30 availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per
31 plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
32 administrator may discontinue the New Jersey Maritime Museum
33 license plate program. The bill also requires that the New Jersey
34 Maritime Museum appoint a liaison to represent the museum in all
35 communications with the commission regarding the license plates.

36 The bill provides that State or other public funds are not to be
37 used by the commission for the initial cost to implement the New
38 Jersey Maritime Museum license plate program. The bill requires
39 the New Jersey Maritime Museum or an individual or entity
40 designated by the museum to contribute non-public monies, not to
41 exceed \$25,000, to offset the initial costs to design, produce, issue,
42 and publicize the license plates and for computer programming
43 changes which may be necessary to implement the program. The
44 bill authorizes the New Jersey Maritime Museum to receive funds
45 from private sources to be used to offset the initial costs.

46 The chief administrator is not required to design, produce, issue,
47 or publicize the availability of the license plates, until: (1) the New
48 Jersey Maritime Museum or the individual or entity designated by

1 the New Jersey Maritime Museum has provided the commission
2 with the money necessary to offset the initial costs incurred by the
3 commission in establishing the license plate program; and (2) the
4 New Jersey Maritime Museum liaison has provided the commission
5 with a minimum of 500 completed applications for the license
6 plates.

7 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first
8 day of the 13th month following enactment to allow the New Jersey
9 Maritime Museum time to provide the commission with the
10 completed applications and fees required pursuant to the bill. The
11 bill expires on the last day of the 12th month following enactment if
12 sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial costs are not
13 received by that date.

14 In fulfillment of a lifelong ambition of opening a museum free to
15 the public promoting New Jersey's vast maritime history, Deborah
16 Whitcraft founded the New Jersey Maritime Museum on July 3,
17 2007. When it initially opened, the museum exhibited a sizable
18 collection of shipwreck files, documents, and artifacts. In the years
19 since it has opened, the New Jersey Maritime Museum has grown
20 thanks to donations and loans from the diving community and
21 public. Located in Beach Haven, New Jersey, the New Jersey
22 Maritime Museum operates as a registered non-profit entity and is
23 open to the public, free of charge.