

ASSEMBLY, No. 5097

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

221st LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 12, 2024

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman TENNILLE R. MCCOY

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblyman Scharfenberger and Assemblywoman Flynn

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of “Woman Veteran” license plates with emblem displaying silhouette of woman veteran saluting set against American flag background.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/10/2025)

1 AN ACT concerning the creation of special “Woman Veteran”
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:*

7
8 1. a. Upon proper application, the Chief Administrator of the
9 New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall issue woman veteran
10 license plates for any motor vehicle owned or leased and registered
11 in the State. In addition to the registration number and other
12 markings or identification otherwise prescribed by law, the license
13 plate shall display a silhouette of a woman veteran saluting set
14 against an American flag background and shall display the words
15 “Woman Veteran.” Woman veteran license plates shall be subject
16 to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes,
17 except as hereinafter otherwise specifically provided.

18 b. Applications for issuance of woman veteran license plates
19 shall be made to the chief administrator on forms and in a manner
20 prescribed by the chief administrator. The application shall include
21 proof satisfactory to the chief administrator that the applicant is a
22 veteran as certified on the applicant’s DD-214 form or on a
23 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. In order to
24 be deemed complete, an application shall be accompanied by a fee
25 of \$50, payable to the commission, which shall be in addition to the
26 fees otherwise prescribed by law for the registration of a motor
27 vehicle.

28 The chief administrator shall collect annually, subsequent to the
29 year of issuance of the woman veteran license plates, a \$10 fee for
30 the license plates in addition to the fees otherwise prescribed by law
31 for the registration of a motor vehicle. The additional fees required
32 by this subsection shall be deposited in the “Woman Veteran
33 License Plate Fund” created pursuant to subsection c. of this
34 section.

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

1 for the purposes of the fund, shall be credited to and deposited in
2 the fund for use as set forth in this section.

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

8 (1) designing, producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
9 availability of the woman veteran license plates; and

10 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
11 necessary to implement the woman veteran license plate program in
12 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 woman
17 veteran license plates. The annual certification of the average cost
18 per license plate shall be approved by the Joint Budget Oversight
19 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
25 woman veteran license plates.

26 e. The chief administrator shall notify eligible motorists of the
27 opportunity to obtain woman veteran license plates by publicizing
28 the availability of the license plates on the website of the
29 commission. The New Jersey Department of Military and
30 Veterans’ Affairs, and any other individual or entity designated by
31 the department, may publicize the availability of the license plates
32 in any manner the department deems appropriate.

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

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

46
47 2. a. State or public funds shall not be used by the commission
48 for the initial cost of:

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1 (1) designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the
2 availability of woman veteran license plates; or

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

7 b. The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans'
8 Affairs, or an individual or entity designated by the department,
9 shall contribute non-public monies in an amount to be determined
10 by the chief administrator, not to exceed a total of \$25,000, to be
11 used to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission for
12 designing, producing, issuing, and publicizing the availability of
13 woman veteran 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 department to be used to offset the initial costs incurred by the
17 commission for the woman veteran license plates authorized by
18 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
19 Any amount remaining after the payment of the initial cost shall be
20 deposited in the "Woman Veteran License Plate Fund" established
21 pursuant to subsection c. of section 1 of P.L. , c. (C.)
22 (pending before the Legislature as this bill).

23 c. The commission shall not begin designing, producing,
24 issuing, or publicizing the availability of woman veteran license
25 plates, or making any necessary programming changes, until the
26 following requirements have been met:

27 (1) The New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans'
28 Affairs, or the individual or entity designated by the department,
29 has provided the commission with the money necessary, as
30 determined by the chief administrator pursuant to subsection b. of
31 this section, to offset the initial costs incurred by the commission in
32 establishing the woman veteran license plate program; and

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

45
46 3. This act shall take effect immediately, but shall remain
47 inoperative until the first day of the 13th month following the date
48 on which the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of

1 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
2 the Legislature as this bill) have been satisfied. The chief
3 administrator may take such anticipatory actions in advance of that
4 date as may be necessary for the timely implementation of
5 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill).
6 P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)
7 shall expire if the conditions set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of
8 subsection c. of section 2 of P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before
9 the Legislature as this bill) are not satisfied by the last day of the
10 12th month following enactment.

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STATEMENT

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15 This bill requires the Chief Administrator (chief administrator)
16 of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) to issue
17 woman veteran license plates. The design of the woman veteran
18 license plates is to display a silhouette of a woman veteran saluting
19 set against an American flag background and the words “Woman
20 Veteran.” An application to obtain a woman veteran license plate is
21 to include satisfactory proof that the applicant is a veteran as
22 evidenced by the applicant’s DD-214 form or on a Certificate of
23 Release or Discharge from Active Duty.

24

25 In addition to the required motor vehicle registration fees, there
26 is an application fee of \$50 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the
27 license plates. After deducting the costs to implement the plates,
28 the additional fees collected are to be deposited into the “Woman
29 Veteran License Plate Fund.” The proceeds of the fund are to be
30 appropriated annually to the organizations and groups that support
31 women veterans.

32

33 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
34 average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
35 availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per
36 plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
37 administrator may discontinue the license plate program. The bill
38 also requires that the New Jersey Department of Military and
39 Veterans’ Affairs (department) appoint a liaison to represent the
40 department in all communications with the MVC regarding the
41 license plates.

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

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

10 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first
11 day of the 13th month after the date on which the appropriate
12 applications and fees required to offset the initial costs incurred by
13 the MVC are provided by the department or its designee. The bill
14 expires on the last day of the 12th month after the bill's enactment
15 if sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial costs are not
16 received.