

SENATE, No. 4792

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 8, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO
District 25 (Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes creation of childhood cancer awareness license plates.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT authorizing the creation of childhood cancer awareness
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 childhood
10 cancer awareness 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 and images signifying
14 support for childhood cancer awareness. The chief administrator
15 shall, in consultation with the WITH Grace Initiative, select the
16 design and color scheme of the childhood cancer awareness license
17 plates. The childhood cancer awareness license plates shall be
18 subject to the provisions of chapter 3 of Title 39 of the Revised
19 Statutes, except as hereinafter otherwise provided.

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

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

1 forth in P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as
2 this bill).

3 d. Prior to the deposit of the additional fees collected pursuant
4 to subsection b. of this section into the “Childhood Cancer
5 Awareness 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 childhood cancer awareness license plates; and

10 (2) any computer programming changes that may be initially
11 necessary to implement the childhood cancer awareness 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 designing,
16 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the availability of the
17 childhood cancer awareness license plates. The annual certification
18 of 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
25 childhood cancer awareness license plates.

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

34 f. The chief administrator and the WITH Grace Initiative shall
35 develop and enter into a memorandum of agreement setting forth
36 the 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 WITH Grace Initiative shall appoint a representative
40 who shall act as a liaison between the WITH Grace Initiative and
41 the commission. The liaison shall represent the WITH Grace
42 Initiative in any and all communications with the commission
43 regarding the childhood cancer awareness license plates established
44 by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the Legislature as this
45 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 availability
2 of childhood cancer awareness license plates; or

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

7 b. The WITH Grace Initiative or an individual or entity
8 designated by the WITH Grace Initiative, shall contribute non-
9 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 childhood
13 cancer awareness 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 WITH Grace Initiative to be used to offset the initial costs incurred
17 by the commission for the childhood cancer awareness license
18 plates authorized by P.L. , c. (C.) (pending before the
19 Legislature as this bill).

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

24 (1) The WITH Grace Initiative or an individual or entity
25 designated by the WITH Grace Initiative, 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 childhood cancer awareness license plate program; and

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

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

1 of subsection c. of section 2 of this act are not satisfied by the last
2 day of the 15th month following enactment.

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5 STATEMENT

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7 This bill authorizes the Chief Administrator of the New Jersey
8 Motor Vehicle Commission (commission) to issue special
9 childhood cancer awareness license plates.

10 The bill provides that the design of the childhood cancer
11 awareness license plate is to display words and images signifying
12 support for childhood cancer awareness. The chief administrator, in
13 consultation with the WITH Grace Initiative, is to select the design
14 and color scheme of the childhood cancer awareness license plates.

15 In addition to all fees otherwise required by law for the
16 registration of a motor vehicle, there is an application fee of \$50
17 and an annual renewal fee of \$10 for the childhood cancer
18 awareness license plates. After deducting the costs of designing,
19 producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the plates, along with
20 any costs incurred because of any computer programming changes
21 that are necessary to implement the license plate program,
22 additional fees will be deposited into a special non-lapsing fund
23 known as the "Childhood Cancer Awareness License Plate Fund."
24 The proceeds of the fund are to be annually appropriated to the New
25 Jersey Commission on Cancer Research for the purpose of
26 supporting childhood cancer research.

27 The chief administrator is required to annually certify the
28 average cost of producing, issuing, renewing, and publicizing the
29 availability of the specialty license plates. If the average cost per
30 plate exceeds \$50 in two consecutive fiscal years, the chief
31 administrator may discontinue the license plate program. The bill
32 also requires that the WITH Grace Initiative appoint a liaison to
33 represent the WITH Grace Initiative in all communications with the
34 commission regarding the childhood cancer awareness license
35 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
38 childhood cancer awareness license plate program. The bill
39 requires the WITH Grace Initiative or an individual or entity
40 designated by the WITH Grace Initiative to contribute non-public
41 monies, not to exceed \$25,000, to offset the initial costs to design,
42 produce, issue, and publicize the license plates and for computer
43 programming changes which may be necessary to implement the
44 program. The bill authorizes WITH Grace Initiative to receive
45 funds 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
48 WITH Grace Initiative or the individual or entity designated by the

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

6 The provisions of the bill will remain inoperative until the first
7 day of the 13th month following the date on which the conditions
8 established in the bill are met. The bill expires on the last day of
9 the 15th month if sufficient applications and fees to offset the initial
10 costs are not received by that date.

11 The WITH Grace Initiative, founded by pediatric cancer survivor
12 Grace Eline and her parents, was created to make an impact by
13 supporting pediatric cancer research initiatives and families when
14 they need it most. The WITH Grace Initiative collects supplies and
15 gifts to give to less fortunate cancer families so they can focus on
16 the cancer fight, gathers funds to support pediatric cancer research
17 initiatives and cancer family support organizations, and actively
18 participates in advocacy for pediatric cancer funding so no one else
19 has to feel the pain of pediatric cancers.