



HOUSE BILL 289: POW/MIA Special Registration Plate.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:	House Finance. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 15, 2019
Introduced by:	Reps. Cleveland, Shepard, Torbett, Speciale	Prepared by:	Trina Griffin
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 289 would authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to produce a "POW/MIA Bring Them Home" special registration plate for motor vehicles and motorcycles.*

CURRENT LAW: North Carolina offers a number of special registration plates. Upon application and payment of the required registration fees, a person may obtain from the Division of Motor Vehicles a special registration plate for a motor vehicle registered in that person's name if the person qualifies for the plate. The issuance of most authorized plates is contingent upon the receipt by the Division of at least 300 applications for the particular plate, or 500 applications for full-color background plates.

As a general rule, the fee for a special registration plate is the regular vehicle registration fee plus a \$10 special registration plate fee. The \$10 special registration plate fee is credited to the Special Registration Plate Account. After deducting the cost of the plates from this account, \$1.3 million is appropriated to provide operating assistance for Visitor Centers. The remaining revenue in the account is transferred quarterly to the Department of Transportation for highway beautification (50%) and the Highway Fund for the Roadside Vegetation Management Program (50%). The cost of some special plates includes a fee in addition to the \$10 special registration plate fee. In those instances, the first \$10 goes to the special registration plate fund and the remainder is transferred quarterly to designated beneficiaries.

In 2014, the General Assembly enacted legislation creating a development process for special registration plates, which requires the organization desiring the plate to submit the required number of paid applications to the Division before legislation is introduced to authorize the plate. Once legislation has passed, the organization must submit the final artwork and list of paid applicants to the Division within 60 days, or the authorization expires.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 289 would authorize the Division to produce a "POW/MIA Bring Them Home" special registration plate for motor vehicles and motorcycles. The plate would be on a full-color background and would be exempt from the plate development process, the expiration provisions that generally apply to new special registration plates, and the required minimum number of applications. The Division would be required to issue the plates after receiving 350 applications (motor vehicle and motorcycle applications would both count toward the 350 total required.)

The fee for the plate would be \$20 in addition to the regular registration fee. The first \$10 of the additional fee would go to the Special Registration Plate Account, and the additional \$10 would be transferred to Rolling Thunder, Inc., Chapter #1 North Carolina.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective July 1, 2019.

Wendy Ray, counsel to House Transportation, substantially contributed to this summary.

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