

HB 1415-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2026 SESSION

26-3143

07/06

HOUSE BILL ***1415-FN***

AN ACT establishing a special veterans license plate and creates a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates.

SPONSORS: Rep. Roy, Rock. 31; Rep. Devoid, Merr. 1; Rep. D. Mannion, Rock. 25; Rep. Rhodes, Ches. 17; Sen. Birdsell, Dist 19; Sen. Gannon, Dist 23

COMMITTEE: Transportation

ANALYSIS

This bill authorizes a special veterans license plate and establishes a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT establishing a special veterans license plate and creates a fund and administrative programs from the proceeds of the sale of such plates.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Conservation Number Plate
2 Fund. Amend the introductory paragraph of RSA 261:97-b, I to read as follows:

3 I. There is hereby established a conservation number plate fund under the administration of
4 the commissioner of safety. The fund shall be used for the promotion, protection, and investment in
5 the state's natural, cultural, and historic resources. The fund shall be nonlapsing **and continually**
6 **appropriated**. The commissioner of safety shall distribute the funds annually on August 1, except
7 as provided in paragraph I-a, as follows: \$5,000 of every \$100,000 received, up to a total of \$50,000,
8 shall be distributed to the department of transportation for the expanded wild flower establishment
9 program for use in planting lilacs and native wild flowers; \$1 for every new, renewal, and transfer of
10 registration, up to a total of \$50,000, shall be placed in a nonlapsing account for use by the
11 department of natural and cultural resources to promote the conservation number plate program;
12 the remainder shall be distributed as follows:

13 2 Motor Vehicles; Certificates of Title and Registration of Vehicles; Use of Funds. Amend RSA
14 261:97-c, VII to read as follows:

15 VII. Any funds transferred from the conservation number plate fund which remain
16 unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall be nonlapsing **and continually appropriated**.

17 3 New Subdivision; Special Veteran Number Plates and Special Veteran Number Plate Fund.
18 Amend RSA 261 by inserting after section 97-f the following new subdivision:

19 Special Veteran Number Plates and Special Veteran Number Plate Fund

20 261:97-g Special Veteran Number Plates.

21 I. The director is hereby authorized to issue special New Hampshire first for veterans
22 number plates, in lieu of other number plates. The design of these special plates shall be determined
23 as provided in RSA 261:97-k. The plates shall retain the "live free or die" logo. Such plates shall be
24 issued only upon application and upon payment of a \$60 fee that shall be in addition to the regular
25 motor vehicle registration fee and any other number plate fees otherwise required.

26 II. The commissioner is also authorized to issue vanity New Hampshire first for veterans
27 number plates. The fee for any such vanity New Hampshire first for veterans number plate shall be
28 the fee as provided in paragraph I, in addition to the fees for vanity plates which are otherwise
29 established by law. The vanity plate portion of the fee shall be distributed as provided in RSA
30 261:89 and RSA 263:52.

1 III. Plates shall be renewed on an annual basis for \$30 per set. Of this sum, the department
2 shall retain an amount as is necessary to recover production and administrative costs as approved by
3 the fiscal committee of the general court. The remaining funds shall be paid to the state treasurer
4 and distributed as provided in RSA 261:97-h. The cost of replacement number plates shall be
5 identical to the cost of initial number plates and the revenue from replacement number plates shall
6 be distributed in the same manner as revenue derived from initial number plates.

7 IV. The commissioner of the department of safety, with the approval of the governor and
8 executive council, shall have the authority to enter into contractual arrangements for the commercial
9 use of the New Hampshire first for veterans plate design. Any royalties derived from such contracts
10 shall be deposited into the New Hampshire first for veterans number plate fund in RSA 261:97-h.

11 261:97-h New Hampshire First for Veterans Number Plate Fund.

12 I. There is hereby established a New Hampshire first for veterans number plate fund under
13 the administration of the commissioner of safety. The fund shall be used to promote the general
14 welfare of the state's veterans, service members and their families by providing quality services.
15 The fund shall be nonlapsing and continually appropriated. The commissioner of safety shall
16 distribute the funds annually on August 1 as follows: \$1 for every new, renewal, and transfer of
17 registration, up to a total of \$50,000, shall be placed in a nonlapsing account for use by the
18 department of military affairs and veteran services to promote the New Hampshire first for veterans
19 number plate program; the remainder shall be provided to the New Hampshire first for veterans
20 fund and distributed based on designated programs and initiatives prioritized by the governor and
21 the state veterans council in order to promote the well being of veterans, service members, and their
22 families.

23 II. Each department and commission receiving funding from the New Hampshire first for
24 veterans number plate fund shall establish a line item in their budget. Moneys received from the
25 New Hampshire first for veterans number plate fund shall be in addition to any other sums
26 appropriated and shall not replace base funding received by any of these departments or
27 commissions through the budget process.

28 261:97-i Use of Funds. The moneys in the fund shall be distributed as provided in RSA 261:97-
29 h. The proceeds shall be used as follows:

30 I. The funds transferred to the department of military affairs and veteran services shall be
31 used to promote the general welfare of the state's veterans, service members, and their families by
32 providing quality services for:

33 (a) Attracting and retaining veterans to the state, including transitioning service
34 members to relocate to the state through raising awareness of the state's veteran-friendly advocacy,
35 policies, and laws, making veteran employment support available, improving focus on veteran well-
36 being, creating strategic messaging and transition assistance programs, and reinforcing critical
37 veteran, service member, and family programs and initiatives.

1 (b) Military skills transfer, licensing, training, and certification programs, including
2 collaboration programs with the office of professional licensure and certification.

3 (c) Rewarding and gainful employment through collaborations with New Hampshire
4 veteran-friendly businesses, organizations, colleges, and schools that honor, fortify, empower, and
5 positively impact the lives of veterans, service members, and their families.

6 (d) Promoting the well being and mental and physical health of veterans, including:

7 (1) Taking actions contributing to an increased enrollment of veterans with the U.S.
8 Department of Veterans Affairs.

9 (2) Participating in the ask the question campaign .

10 (3) Participating in the veterans' freedom to smile initiative.

11 (4) Participating in regional and statewide veteran suicide prevention coalitions.

12 (e) Programs and initiatives that contribute to ending veteran homelessness in New
13 Hampshire.

14 (f) Raising awareness of the GI Bill's educational benefits.

15 (g) Participating in programs and initiatives supporting justice-involved veterans.

16 (h) Participating in programs and initiatives that support the development of a better
17 understanding of the implications and create solutions for an aging veteran demographic in New
18 Hampshire.

19 II. Funds transferred to employment security shall be used to support transitioning service
20 members, veterans, and their spouses find meaningful employment.

21 III. Funds transferred to the department of administrative services shall be used to support
22 friendly programs and initiatives across state agencies that benefit veterans, their spouses, and
23 transitioning service members.

24 IV. Funds transferred to the department of business and economic affairs shall be used in
25 support of attracting and retaining veterans to New Hampshire.

26 V. Funds transferred to the department of safety shall be used for administering the New
27 Hampshire first for veterans program.

28 VI. Funds transferred from the New Hampshire first for veterans number plate fund which
29 remain unexpended at the end of the fiscal year shall be nonlapsing and shall be continually
30 appropriated.

31 VII. All proceeds from the sale of plates by an agency authorized to receive proceeds from
32 the New Hampshire first for veterans number plate fund may be retained by such agency.

33 VIII. Agencies receiving funds pursuant to this subdivision shall mount signs at funded
34 project sites indicating that the project was funded by the New Hampshire first for veterans number
35 plate program. This requirement may be waived in the case of environmentally sensitive projects
36 where signage could be detrimental to the success of the project.

1 261:97-j Plate Use. Plates issued under this subdivision may be used on passenger motor
2 vehicles and recreation vehicles.

3 261:97-k New Hampshire First for Veterans Number Plate Advisory Commission.

4 I. There is established a New Hampshire first for veterans number plate advisory
5 commission to attract and retain veterans in New Hampshire and perform other tangential duties.

6 II. Notwithstanding RSA 14:49, II, the members of the commission shall be as follows:

7 (a) Two members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house
8 of representatives.

9 (b) Two members of the senate, appointed by the president of the senate.

10 (c) The commissioner of the department of military affairs and veteran services, or
11 designee.

12 (b) The commissioner of employment security, or designee.

13 (c) The commissioner of the department of safety, or designee.

14 (d) The commissioner of the department of business and economic affairs, or designee.

15 III. Legislative members of the commission shall receive mileage at the legislative rate when
16 attending to the duties of the commission.

17 IV. The commission shall:

18 (a) Determine plate designs, with final approval of a design being approved by the
19 commissioner of the department of military affairs and veteran services. The commissioner of the
20 department of safety shall establish a numbering system and method of distribution.

21 (b) Register plate designs with the secretary of state.

22 (c) Implement and monitor programs created or funded pursuant to this subdivision,
23 prepare an annual evaluation of projects accomplished during the preceding year, and create an
24 assessment, prior to implementation, of projects proposed for the coming year to ensure that they are
25 created and implemented in accordance with this subdivision.

26 (d) Oversee signage of projects funded pursuant to this subdivision.

27 V. The members of the commission shall elect a chairperson from among the members. The
28 committee chairperson shall appoint a secretary from the New Hampshire department of military
29 and veterans affairs to keep a detailed record of all commission proceedings. The first meeting of the
30 commission shall be called by the first-named house member. The first meeting of the commission
31 shall be held within 45 days of the effective date of this section. The commission shall meet at least
32 once annually. Four members of the commission shall constitute a quorum.

33 VI. The commission shall report its findings and any recommendations for proposed
34 legislation to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
35 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before November 1.

36 261:97-l Agency Reports.

1 I. The department of military affairs and veteran services, employment security, the
2 department of business and economic affairs, and the department of safety shall submit an annual
3 report to the New Hampshire first for veterans number plate advisory commission on or before
4 October 1. The commission chairperson shall compile the reports as a unified report and submit the
5 unified report to the speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, the house
6 clerk, the senate clerk, the governor, and the state library on or before December 31.

7 II. The unified report shall contain the following:

8 (a) A report from the department of safety indicating:

9 (1) The total number of New Hampshire first for veterans number plates sold during
10 the preceding year, including the number of initial plates and the number of renewals.

11 (2) The gross revenue derived from the sale of plates.

12 (3) The amount retained by the department of safety to cover its administrative
13 costs of administering programs under this subdivision.

14 (4) The amount paid to the state treasurer for deposit into the New Hampshire First
15 for veterans number plate fund during the preceding fiscal year.

16 (b) A report from the other 3 agencies receiving proceeds pursuant to this subdivision
17 indicating:

18 (1) The amount of proceeds received pursuant to this subdivision;

19 (2) The total amount of funds expended;

20 (3) Any accomplishments achieved as a result of this subdivision during the
21 preceding fiscal year.

22 (4) An outline of the projects and programs to be conducted in the ensuing fiscal year
23 with proceeds from this subdivision.

24 4 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

**HB 1415-FN- FISCAL NOTE
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FISCAL IMPACT:

Estimated State Impact				
	FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Revenue	\$0	Indeterminable Increase		
<i>Revenue Fund(s)</i>	NH First for Veterans Number Plate Fund			
Expenditures*	\$0	\$45,000	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	Restricted - Highway Fund Cost of Collections - Per the state constitution, costs associated with the collection/administration of highway fund revenue by the Department of Safety is deducted prior to funds being credited as unrestricted highway fund revenue			
Appropriations*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Funding Source(s)</i>	None			

*Expenditure = Cost of bill

*Appropriation = Authorized funding to cover cost of bill

METHODOLOGY:

This bill creates a new special “New Hampshire First for Veterans” license plate and establishes a new dedicated New Hampshire First for Veterans Number Plate Fund. The plates will cost \$60 initially and \$30 for annual renewal, with proceeds, after recovering production and administrative costs, transferred to the new fund. The Department of Safety estimates a one-time system upgrade cost of \$45,000 to establish this plate type. Neither the Department of Safety nor the Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services has provided assumptions or estimates as to the potential interest in such a plate type, therefore this bill’s impact on revenue to the new dedicated fund or when the Department of Safety may fully recover initial administration costs (\$45,000) is indeterminable. Neither Department has identified any ongoing costs relative to administration of the new plate type or dedicated fund.

This bill also makes the existing conservation number plate fund, under RSA 261:97-b, “continually appropriated”.

AGENCIES CONTACTED:

Department of Safety and Department of Military Affairs and Veterans Services

