



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2025 Session

Legislative Fiscal Note

Short Title: 2025 Wildlife Resources Changes.-AB
Bill Number: House Bill 747 (Second Edition)
Sponsor(s): Rep. Adams, Rep. Moss, Rep. Clampitt, and Rep. Turner

SUMMARY TABLE

FISCAL IMPACT OF H.B. 747, V.2 (\$ in millions)

	<u>FY 2025-26</u>	<u>FY 2026-27</u>	<u>FY 2027-28</u>	<u>FY 2028-29</u>	<u>FY 2029-30</u>
State Impact					
Highway Fund Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
Less Expenditures	-	-	-	-	-
Highway Fund Impact	No Estimate Available - Refer to Fiscal Analysis section				

NET STATE IMPACT	No Fiscal Impact
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FISCAL IMPACT SUMMARY

Section 2 of the bill would establish a new Lifetime Conservationist special plate and adjust the currently issued Native Brook Trout and Wildlife Resources special plates. The expected changes in revenue and costs to the State for special plate production are expected to be de minimis.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

Section 2 (a), (b), (c), (d) - Lifetime Conservationist Special Plate

Section 2 amends G.S. 20-63(b1), G.S. 20-79.4(b), and G.S. 20-81.12 to authorize the North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to produce and issue a new Lifetime Conservationist special license plate. Individuals seeking a Lifetime Conservationist special plate will pay an additional \$30 on top of regular vehicle registration fees. Proceeds from the additional fee will be disbursed as follows:

- \$20 deposited into the Collegiate and Cultural Attraction Plate Account (CCAPA), then transferred quarterly to the Wildlife Resources Fund.
- \$10 deposited into the Special Registration Plate Account (SRPA), which supports 13 highway visitor centers, highway beautification efforts, and roadside vegetation management programs at the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

There is no estimate available on the number of Lifetime Conservation special plates that would be issued, so the expected revenue is unknowable. DMV deducts the cost for issuing, handling, and production of specialty plates from the funds deposited in the SRPA.

Section 2 (c)- Native Brook Trout Special Plate

Section 2 amends G.S. 20-79.7(b) governing the distribution of fees collected for the Native Brook Trout special plate. Individuals seeking a Native Brook Trout special plate already pay an additional \$30 fee on top of regular vehicle registration fees. The fee distribution would be set forth as follows:

- \$20 deposited in the CCAPA, then transferred quarterly to the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- \$10 deposited in the SRPA

The bill clarifies that funds would follow the distribution schedule listed above, which does not differ from the currently practiced revenue distribution. For this reason, the Fiscal Research Division does not anticipate any additional revenue from the Native Brook Trout specialty plate beyond what is already collected on a yearly basis.

Section 2 (b), (d) – Wildlife Resources Special Plate

Section 2 amends G.S. 20-81.12(b163) to eliminate the minimum requirement of 300 applications for the Wildlife Resources special plate before DMV can issue the specialty plate. The Wildlife Resources special plate would also not be subject to G.S. 20-79.3A or G.S. 20-79.8, which further prescribe minimum application requirements and a subsequent submittal period for new special plate applications.

Individuals seeking a Wildlife Resources special plate pay an annual \$30 fee on top of regular vehicle registration fees. The fee distribution schedule is set forth as follows:

- \$20 deposited in the CCAPA, then transferred quarterly to the Wildlife Conservation Account
- \$10 deposited in the SRPA

The bill would also authorize DMV to offer the Wildlife Resource plate with a full color background instead of the standard plate background offered for most specialty plates. Full color backgrounds are significantly more expensive than the standard plate, but DMV deducts the cost for issuing, handling, and production of specialty plates from the funds deposited in the SRPA. While the issuance of more expensive plates would reduce the funds being used for non-issuance related purposes in the SPRA, the expected change would be de minimis.

Section 2(f) makes the specialty plate changes in the bill effective July 1, 2025.

TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

N/A.

DATA SOURCES

North Carolina Division of Motor Vehicles

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL NOTE – PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS



This document is an official fiscal analysis prepared pursuant to Chapter 120 of the General Statutes and rules adopted by the Senate and House of Representatives. The estimates in this analysis are based on the data, assumptions, and methodology described in the Fiscal Analysis section of this document. This document only addresses sections of the bill that have projected direct fiscal impacts on State or local governments and does not address sections that have no projected fiscal impacts.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions on this analysis should be directed to the Fiscal Research Division at (919) 733-4910.

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Signed copy located in the NCGA Principal Clerk's Offices

