STATE OF NEW YORK

5305--B

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

February 7, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. M. G. MILLER -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law and the state finance law, in relation to the issuance of distinctive Down's syndrome awareness license plates and the creation of the "Down's syndrome research fund"

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new section 404-ee to read as follows:

§ 404-ee. Distinctive Down's syndrome awareness license plates. 1. Any person residing in this state shall, upon request, be issued a distinctive license plate in support of Down's syndrome awareness and research bearing the phrase "Down's Syndrome Awareness" and any other phrases and design approved by the commissioner. Application for said license plate shall be filed with the commissioner in such form and detail as the commissioner shall prescribe.

2. A distinctive plate issued pursuant to this section shall be issued in the same manner as other number plates upon the payment of the regular registration fee prescribed by section four hundred one of this article; provided, however, that an additional annual service charge of twenty-five dollars shall be charged for such plates.

3. Each twenty-five dollars received as the annual service charge under this section shall be deposited to the credit of the "Down's syndrome research fund" established pursuant to section ninety-nine-ee of the state finance law and shall be used for research undertaken pursuant to section ninety-nine-ee of the state finance law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09103-04-8

§ 2. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 99-ee to read as follows:

§ 99-ee. Down's syndrome research fund. 1. There is hereby established in the joint custody of the commissioner of taxation and finance and the comptroller a fund to be known as the "Down's syndrome research fund".

2. Such fund shall consist of all revenues received pursuant to section four hundred four-ee of the vehicle and traffic law and all other moneys appropriated, credited or transferred thereto from any other fund or source pursuant to law. Nothing contained in this section shall prevent the state from receiving grants, gifts or bequests for the purposes of the fund as defined in this section and depositing them into the fund according to law.

2-a. On or before the first day of February each year, the comptroller shall certify to the governor, temporary president of the senate, speaker of the assembly, chair of the senate finance committee and chair of the assembly ways and means committee, the amount of money deposited in the Down's syndrome research fund during the preceding calendar year as the result of revenue derived pursuant to section four hundred four-ee of the vehicle and traffic law and from grants, gifts and bequests.

2-b. On or before the first day of February each year, the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities shall provide a written report to the temporary president of the senate, speaker of the assembly, chair of the senate finance committee, chair of the assembly ways and means committee, chair of the senate committee on mental health and developmental disabilities, chair of the assembly committee on mental health, the state comptroller and the public. Such report shall include how the monies of the fund were utilized during the preceding calendar year, and shall include:

(i) the amount of money disbursed from the fund and the award process used for such disbursements;

(ii) recipients of awards from the fund;

(iii) the amount awarded to each;

(iv) the purposes for which such awards were granted; and

(v) a summary financial plan for such monies which shall include estimates of all receipts and all disbursements for the current and succeeding fiscal years, along with the actual results from the prior fiscal year.

3. Monies of the fund shall be expended only for Down's syndrome research projects approved by the office for people with developmental disabilities in New York state. As used in this section, the term "Down's syndrome research project" means scientific research approved by the office for people with developmental disabilities into the causes, prevention, screening, treatment and cure of Down's syndrome.

4. Monies shall be payable from the fund on the audit and warrant of the comptroller on vouchers approved and certified by the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities.

5. To the extent practicable, the commissioner of the office for people with developmental disabilities shall ensure that all monies received during a fiscal year are expended prior to the end of that fiscal year.

§ 3. 1. A distinctive plate established pursuant to section 404-ee of the vehicle and traffic law shall only be designed, produced and issued upon the delivery to the department of motor vehicles of a surety bond in the amount of six thousand dollars, which shall be executed by a surety company authorized by the department of financial services to transact business in this state. Provided, however, that if the commis-

sioner of motor vehicles shall have received prior to plate design, production and issuance at least two hundred orders for such distinctive plate together with the additional annual service charge applicable to each such order, which shall be non-refundable, no such surety bond shall be required. All service charges collected pursuant to this section shall be deposited pursuant to the provisions of section 404-oo of the vehicle and traffic law to the credit of the department of motor vehicles distinctive plate development fund established by section 95-g of the state finance law and shall be used for the design, production, advertising and distribution of distinctive license plates in accordance with such section 95-g.

2. If, upon the expiration of two years following the date upon which distinctive plates in the series are first available for sale two hundred or more sets of such plates are sold, a bond delivered pursuant to this section shall be discontinued. If fewer than two hundred sets of such plates are sold by such time, the department of motor vehicles shall be entitled to recover against the bond in an amount proportionate to such shortfall.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; provided, however that section two of this act shall take effect immediately; and provided further, however that effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized and directed to be made and completed on or before such effective date.