

**No. 71. An act relating to Vermont Strong commemorative motor vehicle plates.**

(S.249)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. VERMONT STRONG MOTOR VEHICLE PLATES

(a) Intent. It is the intent of this act to recognize all of those who have suffered losses because of the destruction brought by Tropical Storm Irene and the flooding of 2011, and to commemorate the contributions of the many who are helping to rebuild Vermont and to make it stronger.

(b) Authority; accounting and reporting.

(1) The department of motor vehicles (“department”) is authorized to design, manufacture or procure, and distribute commemorative plates that include the text “Vermont Strong” in accordance with this section. The department and Vermont Life magazine are authorized to sell commemorative plates. The department may also authorize other persons to sell commemorative plates, provided that such persons are required to pay the department \$25.00 per plate within 30 days of receiving the plates from the department.

(2) A Vermont Strong commemorative plate fund (the “fund”) is established. The fund shall be under the control of the commissioner of motor vehicles or designee, and shall consist of all receipts from the sales of Vermont Strong commemorative plates. The commissioner shall account for all proceeds of sales of commemorative plates and all receipts into and

disbursements from the fund; shall track the number of plates distributed and sold; and shall track and collect payments owed for plates distributed. The commissioner shall transfer funds from the fund in accordance with subsection (d) of this section no less often than once per month. The department shall report its accounting of fund receipts and disbursements, plate inventory, and uncollected payments for plates distributed to the joint fiscal committee at its November 2012 meeting.

(c) Use. Residents of the state of Vermont may display an approved commemorative plate on a motor vehicle registered as a pleasure car and on motor trucks registered for less than 26,001 pounds (but excluding vehicles registered under the International Registration Plan) by covering the front registration plate with the commemorative plate any time from the effective date of this act until June 30, 2014. The regular front registration plate shall not be removed. The regular rear registration plate shall be in place and clearly visible at all times.

(d) Price and allocation of revenue. The retail price of the plate shall be \$25.00. Funds received from the sale of the plates shall be allocated as follows:

- (1) \$5.00 to the department;
- (2) \$18.00 to the Vermont Disaster Relief Fund; and
- (3) \$2.00 to the Vermont Foodbank.

(e) Funding. The department of motor vehicles is authorized to obtain an advance from the Vermont Strong commemorative plate fund in an amount to be determined by the commissioner of motor vehicles in anticipation of receipts from the administration of this section.

(f) Tax exemption. Sales of commemorative plates pursuant to this section shall be exempt from the sales and use tax established by 32 V.S.A. chapter 233.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Approved: February 9, 2012