

HOUSE No. 3646

By Mr. Swan of Springfield, petition of Benjamin Swan relative to authorizing the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to issue a Democracy in Action distinctive license plate. Transportation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Seven.

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A DEMOCRACY FUND.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 9 of the General Laws is hereby amended
2 by adding the following section:—

3 Section 31. (a) There shall be established and set up on the books
4 of the Commonwealth a separate fund to be known as the Democ-
5 racy Fund. There shall be credited to said fund revenues received
6 from the sale of Democracy in Action distinctive registration plates
7 and a state supplemental allocation in such amount that the yearly
8 revenues reaches, but does not exceed \$1,000,000; interest earnings
9 thereon issued pursuant to subsection (d) of Section 2E of Chapter
10 90.

11 (b) The secretary of state shall be the trustee of all amounts cred-
12 ited to the Democracy Fund, Amounts credited to the Common-
13 wealth Security Trust Fund and interest earnings thereon shall be
14 available for expenditure and not subject to appropriation at the
15 direction of the secretary of state for the following purposes: (i) for
16 providing grants to local community-based organizations engaged in
17 voter registration and/or civic education efforts; (ii) for providing
18 grants to non-partisan statewide organizations that sponsor or under-
19 take voter education, voter outreach and/or voter registration efforts;
20 and (iii) for grants to public schools to develop and implement civic
21 education and/or civic engagement programs targeted to students of
22 said public schools.

1 SECTION 2. Section 2E of Chapter 90 of the General Laws, as
2 appearing in the 2002 Official Edition, is hereby amended by adding
3 the following subsection:—

4 (d) The registrar shall furnish, upon application, to the owners of
5 private passenger motor vehicles distinctive registration plates which
6 shall display on their face a design celebrating democracy and civic
7 engagement. Said design shall be by the registrar in consultation
8 with the secretary of state. There shall be a fee of not less than \$40
9 for such plates in addition to the established registration fee for pri-
10 vate passenger motor vehicles, such fee being payable at the time of
11 registration of such vehicle and at each renewal thereof. The portion
12 of the total fee remaining after the deduction of the costs directly
13 attributable to the issuance of such plates shall be deposited in a reg-
14 istry retained revenue account and of the remaining portion of such
15 fee, 100 per cent shall be deposited in the Democracy and Civic
16 Engagement Fund Established in section 31 of chapter 9.