

HB 435 -- Protection of Human Life

Sponsor: Rector

This bill allows for a special license plate bearing the words "Respect Life," with an image of a single red rose. There is no limit on the number of plates an individual may obtain, as long as they either solely or jointly own the vehicle and pay the \$25 annual or \$50 biennial registration fees. The bill also establishes the Alternatives to Abortion Support Fund and the Respect Life Commission.

ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION SUPPORT FUND

The bill:

- (1) Requires the State Treasurer to deposit into this fund appropriations from the General Assembly and any amounts received from general revenue or other sources;
- (2) Requires the amount in this fund to exceed \$1 million before more than half of the money credited to the fund plus all investment earnings credited during the previous fiscal year can be available for disbursement. When the State Treasurer certifies that assets in the fund exceed \$1 million, all earnings plus future credits from all sources will be available for disbursement;
- (3) Prohibits funds from being distributed to any person or entity that performs, induces, or refers for abortions; and
- (4) Promotes childbirth and supports alternatives to abortion by grants or contracts.

RESPECT LIFE COMMISSION

The bill:

- (1) Stipulates that the commission will consist of a number of members equal to the number of congressional districts, to serve four-year terms with the consent from the Senate;
- (2) Requires eligible persons to demonstrate an agreement with the principles of respect for human life and the need to promote childbirth;
- (3) Requires each member to serve without compensation, but allows for the reimbursement of any expenses incurred;
- (4) Requires the commission to consult with state agencies,

commissions, boards, and public and private agencies to determine the effectiveness and need for programs that promote human life;

(5) Authorizes the commission to disburse funds from the Alternatives to Abortion Support Fund;

(6) Requires the commission to develop statewide educational and public informational programs to promote awareness and identify the problems and conditions that cause some women not to carry their pregnancies to term;

(7) Allows the commission to appoint an executive director, responsible for the administrative operations of the commission and to hire staff members; and

(8) Requires the commission to submit an annual report of its activities by December 31 of each year to the President Pro Tem of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor.