

New York Chapter Gets Approval For First Autism License Plate

In an exciting first, New York state is now accepting requests for custom-ordered license plates with the autism awareness ribbon and ASA's Web site address. A bill - A09542 - to create the new plates, which will raise awareness of autism and funds for autism research, was introduced in the state legislature in January and passed the Senate in late June.

The new license plates are the result of the tireless efforts of Mary Beth Palo, an active member of ASA's Nassau/Suffolk Chapter. In addition to driving the project forward in the state of New York, Palo worked with staff at the ASA national office to coordinate the use of ASA's name, which surrounds the autism ribbon, and Web site address on the plates.

Specifically, the bill "authorizes the issuance of distinctive license plates for autism awareness" and "creates the autism awareness and research fund." According to the bill, the funds raised through the program "shall be expended only for autism awareness and research projects approved by the Department of Health in New York state." In addition, the bill defines 'autism research projects' as "scientific research into the causes and/or treatment of autism" and 'autism awareness projects' as any project aimed toward educating the public about autism approved by the Department of Health."

For a standard plate with a number assigned by the New York Department of Motor Vehicles, the cost is \$43 (\$25 above the basic fee for plates), and for a personalized plate, the cost is \$68.

To access the order form for the license plates (which is in PDF format), [click here](#), or go to the Nassau/Suffolk County Chapter Web site (www.nsasa.org) and click on the appropriate link. To access the bill text, [click here](#), or go to the chapter's Web site and link to it from there.

Click on the link to order your own license plate: <http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/org.htm>

