

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln, the sixteenth President of the  
3 United States of America, led the nation with both courage and  
4 compassion during one of the most turbulent periods of American  
5 history; and

6 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln invoked the basic principles of  
7 human equality espoused in the Declaration of Independence,  
8 thereby redefining the objective of the American Civil War from  
9 saving the union to fostering "a new birth of freedom" and  
10 refocusing the underlying purpose of government to be an  
11 institution "of the people, by the people and for the people";  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Abraham Lincoln took inspiration from the phrase  
14 in the Declaration of Independence that "all men are created  
15 equal" by leading the effort to fulfill the promise of this  
16 great Nation in order to bring an end to slavery; and

17 WHEREAS, The year 2009 will mark the bicentennial of the  
18 birth of Abraham Lincoln on February 12, 1809; and

19 WHEREAS, There is a national effort underway to commemorate  
20 the bicentennial anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth and to  
21 honor the legacy of his service and sacrifice to his country;  
22 and

1           WHEREAS, In recognition of the prominent role that Illinois  
2 and Illinoisans played in the life and times of Abraham  
3 Lincoln, Illinois historical, tourist, and civic groups are  
4 preparing events and activities to commemorate the  
5 bicentennial of Lincoln's birth; and

6           WHEREAS, A National Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial  
7 Commission and an Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial  
8 Commission have been created; and

9           WHEREAS, The General Assembly introduces the Lincoln  
10 Bicentennial license plates to commemorate the bicentennial  
11 anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth; and

12           WHEREAS, The additional fees associated with the Lincoln  
13 Bicentennial license plates will benefit the Lincoln Legacy  
14 Scholarship program, a legacy initiative of the Illinois  
15 Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; therefore

16           **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
17 **represented in the General Assembly:**

18           Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
19 Section 5.708 as follows:

1 (30 ILCS 105/5.708 new)

2 Sec. 5.708. The Lincoln Legacy Scholarship Fund.

3 Section 10. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by adding  
4 Section 3-680 as follows:

5 (625 ILCS 5/3-680 new)

6 Sec. 3-680. Lincoln Bicentennial license plates.

7 (a) The Secretary, upon receipt of an application made in  
8 the form prescribed by the Secretary, may issue special  
9 registration plates designated as Lincoln Bicentennial license  
10 plates. The special plates issued under this Section shall be  
11 affixed only to passenger vehicles of the first division and  
12 motor vehicles of the second division weighing not more than  
13 8,000 pounds. Plates issued under this Section shall expire  
14 according to the multi-year procedure established by Section  
15 3-414.1 of this Code.

16 (b) The design and color of the plates is wholly within the  
17 discretion of the Secretary. The Secretary may allow the plates  
18 to be issued as vanity plates or personalized under Section  
19 3-405.1 of the Code. The Secretary shall prescribe stickers or  
20 decals as provided under Section 3-412 of this Code.

21 (c) An applicant for the special plate shall be charged a  
22 \$25 fee for original issuance in addition to the appropriate  
23 registration fee. Of this fee, \$10 shall be deposited into the  
24 Lincoln Legacy Scholarship Fund and \$15 shall be deposited into

1 the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund, to be used  
2 by the Secretary to help defray the administrative processing  
3 costs.

4 For each registration renewal period, a \$25 fee, in  
5 addition to the appropriate registration fee, shall be charged.  
6 Of this fee, \$23 shall be deposited into the Lincoln Legacy  
7 Scholarship Fund and \$2 shall be deposited into the Secretary  
8 of State Special License Plate Fund.

9 (d) The Lincoln Legacy Scholarship Fund is created as a  
10 special fund in the State treasury. All money in the Lincoln  
11 Legacy Scholarship Fund shall be paid, subject to appropriation  
12 by the General Assembly and approval by the Secretary, as  
13 grants to the Illinois Community College System Foundation for  
14 scholarships to be distributed to students at public and  
15 private Illinois colleges and universities who are recipients  
16 of scholarships under the Lincoln Legacy Scholarship program,  
17 founded by the Illinois Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial  
18 Commission.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.