
By: **Delegates Conway, Rudolph, Amedori, W. Baker, Bartlett, Bohanan, Boutin, Bozman, Brinkley, Cadden, Cane, D'Amato, Donoghue, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Getty, Glassman, Guns, Hecht, K. Kelly, Linton, McClenahan, McKee, Mitchell, O'Donnell, Owings, Parrott, Proctor, Riley, Schisler, Shank, Snodgrass, Sophocleus, Stocksdale, Stull, Turner, Walkup, and Wood**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2000
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Special Commemorative Registration Plates - Honoring**
3 **State Agriculture**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue
5 commemorative license plates of a design approved by the Administration to
6 honor State agriculture; requiring the Administration, after recovering the costs
7 of issuing special registration plates under this Act, to disburse any surplus
8 moneys to a nonprofit organization that is closely related to State agriculture;
9 requiring the Administration to adopt certain regulations before designating a
10 nonprofit organization to receive the surplus moneys; and generally relating to
11 special registration plates.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article - Transportation
14 Section 13-618
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Transportation**

20 13-618.

21 (a) The Administration may issue special commemorative original or
22 substitute registration plates for any geographical, historical, natural resource,
23 AGRICULTURAL, or environmental commemoration of statewide significance.

1 (b) The owner of a vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a lease not intended
2 as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business entity that owns
3 the vehicle considered eligible by the Administration may apply to the Administration
4 for the assignment of a commemorative registration plate under this section if the
5 vehicle is included in one of the following classes:

6 (1) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

7 (2) A Class B (for hire) vehicle;

8 (3) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a manufacturer's rated capacity of one
9 ton or less;

10 (4) A Class G (trailer) vehicle; or

11 (5) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

12 (c) (1) An original or substitute commemorative plate may only be issued
13 under this section for a fixed period of 2 consecutive years after its initial issuance.

14 (2) The Administration may only issue 1 commemorative plate under
15 this section at any one time.

16 (d) (1) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under
17 this title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a commemorative registration plate under
18 this section shall pay the fee set by the Administration when the new registration
19 plates are issued to the vehicle under this section.

20 (2) (i) The Administration shall set the fee at a level that will enable
21 the Administration to recover its costs under this section.

22 (ii) The Administration may charge a fee that is sufficient to result
23 in a surplus after costs are subtracted.

24 (iii) The Administration shall retain a portion of the fee that is
25 sufficient to allow the Administration to recover any costs of issuing and distributing
26 commemorative plates under this section.

27 (iv) Any surplus moneys remaining after the Administration has
28 recovered the costs of issuing a commemorative plate under this section may not be
29 retained by or transferred to any agency of the State for any purpose.

30 (v) Notwithstanding subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, the
31 surplus moneys may be retained for the purpose described in paragraph (3) of this
32 subsection.

33 (3) The surplus moneys shall be disbursed by the Administration to a
34 nonprofit organization that is:

35 (i) Closely related to the geographical, historical, natural resource,
36 AGRICULTURAL, or environmental theme which the plate commemorates; and

1 (ii) Designated by the Administration under subsection (e) of this
2 section.

3 (4) No portion of the fee may be credited to the Gasoline and Motor
4 Vehicle Revenue Account for distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of the
5 Transportation Article.

6 (e) (1) The Administration shall adopt regulations not inconsistent with the
7 Maryland Vehicle Law to govern the issuance of special registration plates under this
8 section.

9 (2) Before designating any nonprofit organization to receive any surplus
10 moneys and before distributing any surplus moneys to any nonprofit organization,
11 the Administration shall adopt regulations specific to each new commemorative plate
12 detailing:

13 (i) The name and nature of the nonprofit organization receiving
14 the money;

15 (ii) The relationship of the nonprofit organization to the
16 geographical, historical, natural resource, AGRICULTURAL, or environmental theme
17 which the plate commemorates; and

18 (iii) The plan of distribution of the funds.

19 (f) The additional fee to the annual registration fee required by this section is
20 not required for special registration of a vehicle that is exempt under § 13-903 of this
21 title, or a vehicle with a special registration plate recognizing:

22 (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

23 (2) A volunteer fire department, volunteer rescue squad, or volunteer
24 ambulance company in this State.

25 (g) (1) A special registration number as specified by the Administration and
26 assigned under this section may consist of:

27 (i) Any combination of:

28 1. Letters; and

29 2. Numerals; and

30 (ii) Any design approved by the Administration that adequately
31 reflects the geographical, historical, natural resource, AGRICULTURAL, or
32 environmental theme which the plate commemorates.

33 (2) A special registration number or design assigned under this section
34 shall be displayed on the registration plates for the vehicle.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2000.