
By: Delegates Hecht and Brinkley

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Commemorative Registration Plates - Education**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue special
4 commemorative registration plates for an educational commemoration of statewide
5 significance; increasing the number of commemorative registration plates that the
6 Administration may issue at any one time; authorizing the Administration to
7 disburse surplus funds received from the sale of commemorative registration plates
8 to a local governmental entity closely related to the theme that theregistration
9 plates commemorate; requiring the Administration, before designating a local
10 governmental entity to receive surplus funds from the sale of a commemorative
11 registration plate, to adopt regulations identifying the local governmental entity and
12 its relation to the theme commemorated by the registration plate; clarifying
13 language; and generally relating to commemorative registration plates.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Transportation
16 Section 13-618
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 13-618.

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

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

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

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

2 (3) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a manufacturer's rated capacity of 3/4 ton
3 or less;

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

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

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

8 (2) The Administration may [only] NOT issue [1] MORE THAN TWO
9 commemorative [plate] PLATES under this section at any one time.

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

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

16 (i) The Administration may charge a fee that is sufficient to result in
17 a surplus after costs are subtracted.

18 (ii) The Administration shall retain a portion of the fee that is
19 sufficient to allow the Administration to recover any costs of issuing and distributing
20 commemorative plates under this section.

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

24 (iv) Notwithstanding subparagraph (iii) of this paragraph, the surplus
25 moneys may be retained for the purpose described in paragraph (3) of this subsection.

26 (3) The surplus moneys shall be disbursed by the Administration to a
27 nonprofit organization OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY that is:

28 (i) Closely related to the geographical, historical, EDUCATIONAL,
29 natural resource, or environmental theme which the plate commemorates; and

30 (ii) Designated by the Administration under subsection (e) of this
31 section.

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

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

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1 (2) Before designating any nonprofit organization OR LOCAL
2 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY to receive any surplus moneys and before distributing any
3 surplus moneys to any nonprofit organization OR LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY, the
4 Administration shall adopt regulations specific to each new commemorative plate
5 detailing:

6 (i) The name and nature of the nonprofit organization OR LOCAL
7 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY receiving the money;

8 (ii) The relationship of the nonprofit organization OR LOCAL
9 GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY to the geographical, historical, EDUCATIONAL, natural
10 resource, or environmental theme which the plate commemorates; and

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

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

15 (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

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

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

20 (i) Any combination of:

21 1. Letters; and

22 2. Numerals; and

23 (ii) Any design approved by the Administration that adequately
24 reflects the geographical, historical, EDUCATIONAL, natural resource, or environmental
25 theme which the plate commemorates.

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

28 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
29 October 1, 1996.