
By: Delegates Bozman, Conway, and McClenahan

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Special Organizational Registration Plates - Eligibility of Surviving**
3 **Spouses**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the surviving spouse of a deceased member of an
5 organization considered eligible by the Motor Vehicle Administration to apply
6 under certain circumstances for assignment of a special registration number to a
7 vehicle owned by the surviving spouse; requiring a surviving spouse applying for a
8 special registration number to provide certain proof to the Administration; making
9 a stylistic change; making this Act an emergency measure; and generally relating to
10 eligibility for special vehicle registration numbers.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
12 Article - Transportation
13 Section 13-619
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

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

18 **Article - Transportation**

19 13-619.

20 (a) The owner of a motor vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a lease not
21 intended as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business entity that
22 owns the vehicle who is a member OR, SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C)(3) OF THIS
23 SECTION, THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A MEMBER, of an organization considered
24 eligible by the Administration may apply to the Administration for the assignment of a
25 special registration number if the vehicle is included in one of the following classes:

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

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

29 (3) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

1 (b) (1) In this subsection, "motorcyclist organization" means a motorcyclist
2 organization, institution, association, society, or corporation that:

3 (i) Is exempt from taxation under § 501 (c)(7) of the Internal Revenue
4 Code; and

5 (ii) Is determined by the Administration to be eligible under this
6 section.

7 (2) The owner of a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle who is a member of a
8 motorcyclist organization may apply to the Administration for the assignment of a special
9 registration number for the vehicle.

10 (c) The Administration may issue and continue a special registration number
11 under this section if:

12 (1) The owner of the motor vehicle submits, with the original application,
13 proof satisfactory to the Administration that the owner of the vehicle is a member of a
14 nonprofit organization and complies with the regulations adopted by the Administration
15 under subsection (d) of this section; [and]

16 (2) At least 25 owners of vehicles in a class apply to the Administration for
17 the assignment of special registration numbers, and at least 25 special registration
18 numbers are issued initially; AND

19 (3) IN THE CASE OF AN OWNER WHO IS APPLYING AS A SURVIVING
20 SPOUSE, THE OWNER SUBMITS PROOF SATISFACTORY TO THE ADMINISTRATION
21 THAT AT THE TIME OF DEATH OF THE OWNER'S SPOUSE, THE DECEASED SPOUSE
22 WAS THE HOLDER OF A SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBER ISSUED UNDER THIS
23 SECTION.

24 (d) The Administration shall adopt regulations not inconsistent with the
25 Maryland Vehicle Law to govern the issuance of special registration plates to members of
26 nonprofit organizations under this section.

27 (e) (1) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under this
28 title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a special registration under this section shall pay a fee
29 determined by the Administration each time new registration plates are issued for the
30 vehicle.

31 (2) The fee:

32 (i) May not exceed the amount required to enable the Administration
33 to recover its costs under this section;

34 (ii) Shall be retained by the Administration for the purpose of
35 recovering its cost under this section; and

36 (iii) May not be credited to the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue
37 Account for distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of [the Transportation Article.] THIS
38 ARTICLE.

3

1 (f) The additional fee required under subsection (e) of this section is not required
2 for special registration of a vehicle that is exempt under § 13-903 of this title, or a vehicle
3 with a special registration plate recognizing:

4 (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

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

7 (g) (1) The special registration plates or plate issued under this section may
8 consist of:

9 (i) 1. Any combination of letters, numerals, or both; and

10 2. The name, initials, or abbreviation of the name of the
11 organization; or

12 (ii) 1. Any combination of letters, numerals, or both;

13 2. The name, initials, or abbreviation of the name of the
14 organization; and

15 3. An emblem or logo as authorized by the Administration that
16 depicts the organization.

17 (2) A special registration number assigned under this section shall be
18 displayed on the registration plates or plate for the vehicle.

19 (3) An organization may, at its option, receive a special registration under
20 either paragraph (1)(i) or paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, but not under both.

21 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency
22 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health and safety, has
23 been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to
24 each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from the date it is
25 enacted.