

**By: Delegates Bozman, Conway, and McClenahan**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 20, 1996

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

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 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

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1 eligible by the Administration may apply to the Administration for the assignment of a  
2 special registration number if the vehicle is included in one of the following classes:

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

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

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

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

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

11 (ii) Is determined by the Administration to be eligible under this  
12 section.

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

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

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

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

25 (3) IN THE CASE OF AN OWNER WHO IS APPLYING AS A SURVIVING  
26 SPOUSE, THE OWNER SUBMITS PROOF SATISFACTORY TO THE ADMINISTRATION  
27 THAT AT THE TIME OF DEATH OF THE OWNER'S SPOUSE, THE DECEASED SPOUSE  
28 WAS THE HOLDER OF A SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBER ISSUED UNDER THIS  
29 SECTION.

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

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

37 (2) The fee:

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

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

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

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

9 (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

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

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

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

15 2. The name, initials, or abbreviation of the name of the  
16 organization; or

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

18 2. The name, initials, or abbreviation of the name of the  
19 organization; and

20 3. An emblem or logo as authorized by the Administration that  
21 depicts the organization.

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

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

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