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**By: Delegate Curran**

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

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

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the issuance of special commemorative registration  
4 plates for any educational commemoration of statewide significance; increasing the  
5 number of plates that may be issued at any one time; requiring that the surplus  
6 moneys for each plate issued be disbursed to a Maryland nonprofit organization,  
7 including, in the case of an educational commemoration plate, a nonprofit  
8 organization related to the educational theme that the plate commemorates;  
9 clarifying language; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to  
10 special commemorative registration plates.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
12 Article - Transportation  
13 Section 13-618  
14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 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 13-618.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 (2) The Administration may [only] issue ONLY [1] TWO commemorative  
9 [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) (i) The Administration shall set the fee at a level that will enable the  
15 Administration to recover its costs under this section.

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

18 (iii) 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 (iv) 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 (v) Notwithstanding subparagraph (iv) 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 FOR EACH PLATE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION  
27 shall be disbursed by the Administration to a MARYLAND nonprofit organization that is:

28 (i) Closely related to the EDUCATIONAL, geographical, historical,  
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 to receive any surplus  
2 moneys and before distributing any surplus moneys to any nonprofit organization, the  
3 Administration shall adopt regulations specific to each new commemorative plate  
4 detailing:

5                   (i) The name and nature of the nonprofit organization receiving the  
6 money;

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

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

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

14                  (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

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

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

19                  (i) Any combination of:

20                                 1. Letters; and

21                                 2. Numerals; and

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

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

27                  SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 1997.