
By: Delegates C. Mitchell, Linton, and Muse

Rules suspended

Introduced and read first time: March 6, 1997

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Special Organizational Registration Plates - Emblems and Logos**

3 FOR the purpose of altering provisions of law relating to the issuance of special
4 organizational registration plates to restrict the depiction of a flag on an emblem or
5 logo displayed on such plates; requiring the Administration to provide a certain
6 notice to a person with special organizational registration plates displaying certain
7 emblems or logos; requiring the Administration to issue replacement registration
8 plates under certain circumstances; and generally relating to special organizational
9 registration plates with emblems or logos.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article - Transportation
12 Section 13-619
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

17 **Article - Transportation**

18 13-619.

19 (a) The owner of a motor vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a lease not
20 intended as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business entity that
21 owns the vehicle who is a member or, subject to subsection (c)(3) of this section, the
22 surviving spouse of a member, of an organization considered eligible by the
23 Administration may apply to the Administration for the assignment of a special
24 registration number if the vehicle is included in one of the following classes:

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

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

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

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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;

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 spouse, the owner
20 submits proof satisfactory to the Administration that at the time of death of the owner's
21 spouse, the deceased spouse was the holder of a special registration number issued under
22 this section.

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

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

30 (2) The fee:

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

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

35 (iii) May not be credited to the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue
36 Account for distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of this article.

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

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1 (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

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

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

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

7 2. The name, initials, or abbreviation of the name of the
8 organization; or

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

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

12 3. [An] SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
13 AN emblem or logo as authorized by the Administration that depicts the organization.

14 (2) AN EMBLEM OR LOGO DISPLAYED ON REGISTRATION PLATES
15 ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT DEPICT A FLAG EXCEPT FOR:

16 (I) THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES;

17 (II) THE FLAG OF THE STATE; OR

18 (III) A FLAG THAT WAS INCORPORATED INTO AN OFFICIAL SYMBOL
19 OR FLAG OF A POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE BEFORE JULY 1, 1997.

20 [(2)] (3) A special registration number assigned under this section shall be
21 displayed on the registration plates or plate for the vehicle.

22 [(3)] (4) An organization may, at its option, receive a special registration
23 under either paragraph (1)(i) or paragraph (1)(ii) of this subsection, but not under both.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Motor Vehicle
25 Administration shall notify a person to whom special organizational registration plates
26 were issued under § 13-619(g)(1)(ii) of the Transportation Article before the effective
27 date of this Act with an emblem or logo that is not authorized under this Act, at least 30
28 days before the end of the registration period for the vehicle for which the plates were
29 issued, that the person is required to return the plates to the Motor Vehicle
30 Administration by the end of the registration period.

31 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, upon the return of
32 special organizational registration plates issued under § 13-619(g)(1)(ii) of the
33 Transportation Article before the effective date of this Act with an emblem or logo that
34 is not authorized under this Act and the renewal of the registration of the vehicle for
35 which the plates were issued, the Motor Vehicle Administration shall issue to the owner
36 of the vehicle replacement registration plates as otherwise authorized under Title 13 of
37 the Transportation Article.

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1 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 July 1, 1997.