
By: Senator Dyson

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 1997

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Registration - Commemorative Plates for Supporters of Dog and Cat**
3 **Sterilization**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue specially
5 designed commemorative registration plates to enhance public awareness of the
6 State's commitment to manage the population of dogs and cats through sterilization
7 and to subsidize the efforts of certain entities that humanely sterilize dogs and cats
8 in the State; requiring the Governor to appoint a certain number of individuals to a
9 committee to develop, organize, and implement a statewide contest to design the
10 commemorative plates; restricting the issuance of the commemorative plates to
11 certain classes of vehicles; requiring the Administration to charge an additional
12 registration fee for the commemorative plates under certain circumstances;
13 requiring the Administration to transfer a certain portion of the additional
14 registration fee charged for commemorative plates issued under this Act to certain
15 counties monthly; requiring counties receiving funds under this Act either to
16 distribute the funds received in a certain manner to certain entities or to return the
17 funds to the Administration; providing for the allocation of funds returned by a
18 county to the Administration; and generally relating to the issuance of
19 commemorative registration plates by the Administration.

20 BY adding to

21 Article - Transportation
22 Section 13-618.1
23 Annotated Code of Maryland
24 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

27 **Article - Transportation**

28 13-618.1.

29 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ISSUE SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE
30 ORIGINAL OR SUBSTITUTE REGISTRATION PLATES TO:

31 (1) ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE STATE'S COMMITMENT TO
32 MANAGE THE POPULATION OF DOGS AND CATS THROUGH STERILIZATION; AND

2

1 (2) SUBSIDIZE THE EFFORTS OF ENTITIES THAT HUMANELY STERILIZE
2 DOGS AND CATS.

3 (B) THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE, OR A LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE UNDER A
4 LEASE NOT INTENDED AS SECURITY, OR A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR
5 PARTNER OF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT OWNS THE VEHICLE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE
6 BY THE ADMINISTRATION MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE
7 ASSIGNMENT OF A COMMEMORATIVE REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION
8 IF THE VEHICLE IS INCLUDED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

9 (1) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;

10 (2) A CLASS B (FOR HIRE) VEHICLE;

11 (3) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A MANUFACTURER'S RATED
12 CAPACITY OF 1 TON OR LESS;

13 (4) A CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE; OR

14 (5) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE.

15 (C) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE
16 REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE, AN OWNER OF A VEHICLE ASSIGNED A
17 COMMEMORATIVE REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PAY THE FEE
18 SET BY THE ADMINISTRATION WHEN THE NEW REGISTRATION PLATES ARE ISSUED
19 TO THE VEHICLE UNDER THIS SECTION.

20 (2) (I) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SET THE FEE AT A LEVEL THAT
21 WILL ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER ITS COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

22 (II) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CHARGE A FEE THAT IS
23 SUFFICIENT TO RESULT IN A SURPLUS OF AT LEAST \$12 AFTER COSTS ARE
24 SUBTRACTED.

25 (III) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL RETAIN A PORTION OF THE FEE
26 THAT IS SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER ANY COSTS OF
27 ISSUING AND DISTRIBUTING COMMEMORATIVE PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.

28 (IV) ANY SURPLUS MONEYS REMAINING AFTER THE
29 ADMINISTRATION HAS RECOVERED THE COSTS OF ISSUING A COMMEMORATIVE
30 PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE RETAINED BY OR TRANSFERRED TO ANY
31 AGENCY OF THE STATE FOR ANY PURPOSE.

32 (V) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (IV) OF THIS
33 PARAGRAPH, THE SURPLUS MONEYS MAY BE RETAINED FOR THE PURPOSE
34 DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

35 (3) THE SURPLUS MONEYS SHALL BE DISBURSED BY THE
36 ADMINISTRATION TO EACH COUNTY MONTHLY IN A PROPORTIONATE SHARE
37 EQUAL TO THE PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL NUMBER OF REGISTRATION PLATES
38 ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION THAT ARE ISSUED TO RESIDENTS OF THE RESPECTIVE
39 COUNTY.

3

1 (4) EACH COUNTY RECEIVING FUNDS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

2 (I) DISTRIBUTE THE ENTIRETY OF THE FUNDS PROMPTLY TO
3 ENTITIES THAT HUMANELY STERILIZE DOGS AND CATS WITHIN THAT COUNTY; OR

4 (II) RETURN THE ENTIRETY OF THE FUNDS PROMPTLY TO THE
5 ADMINISTRATION.

6 (5) FUNDS RECEIVED BY A COUNTY UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE
7 APPLIED IN ADDITION TO AND NOT IN SUBSTITUTION OF EXISTING FUNDING BY THE
8 COUNTY OF ENTITIES THAT HUMANELY STERILIZE DOGS AND CATS.

9 (6) ANY FUNDS RETURNED TO THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL BE
10 APPORTIONED AMONG THOSE COUNTIES RECEIVING FUNDS IN EQUAL
11 PROPORTIONS.

12 (7) EACH COUNTY SHALL DECIDE WHICH ENTITIES WILL RECEIVE
13 FUNDS DISBURSED UNDER THIS SECTION.

14 (8) NO PORTION OF THE FEE MAY BE CREDITED TO THE GASOLINE AND
15 MOTOR VEHICLE REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER § 8-403 OR § 8-404
16 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

17 (D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NOT INCONSISTENT
18 WITH THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW TO GOVERN THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL
19 REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.

20 (E) THE ADDITIONAL FEE TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE REQUIRED
21 BY THIS SECTION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF A VEHICLE
22 THAT IS EXEMPT UNDER § 13-903 OF THIS TITLE, OR A VEHICLE WITH A SPECIAL
23 REGISTRATION PLATE RECOGNIZING:

24 (1) THE MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD; OR

25 (2) A VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT, VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD, OR
26 VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE COMPANY IN THIS STATE.

27 (F) (1) A SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBER AS SPECIFIED BY THE
28 ADMINISTRATION AND ASSIGNED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY CONSIST OF:

29 (I) ANY COMBINATION OF:

30 1. LETTERS; AND

31 2. NUMERALS; AND

32 (II) THE DESIGN SELECTED BY THE COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED
33 UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

34 (2) THE GOVERNOR SHALL APPOINT A COMMITTEE OF FIVE
35 INDIVIDUALS FROM A LIST OF RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY HUMANE
36 ORGANIZATIONS IN THE STATE TO DEVELOP, ORGANIZE, AND IMPLEMENT A
37 STATEWIDE CONTEST TO DESIGN THE COMMEMORATIVE PLATES TO BE ISSUED
38 UNDER THIS SECTION.

4

1 (3) A SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBER OR DESIGN ASSIGNED UNDER
2 THIS SECTION SHALL BE DISPLAYED ON THE REGISTRATION PLATES FOR THE
3 VEHICLE.

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