
By: Senator Miller

Introduced and read first time: February 19, 1997

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Special Organizational Registration Plates**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the minimum number of vehicle owners belonging to a
4 nonprofit organization that must apply to the Motor Vehicle Administration for
5 special organizational registration plates before the members of the organization
6 are eligible for the special plates; requiring an applicant for special organizational
7 registration plates to pay a certain fee in addition to the fee otherwise required for
8 the registration of a vehicle; specifying certain fees; providing for the distribution of
9 certain fees collected by the Administration under this Act; providing that certain
10 funds distributed under this Act to the Maryland Veterans Commission are
11 supplemental to and not in substitution of funds available to the Commission from
12 any other source; clarifying language; providing for the construction of this Act; and
13 generally relating to special organizational registration plates.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Transportation
16 Section 13-619
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 13-619.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (2) At least [25] 250 owners of vehicles in a class apply to the
18 Administration for the assignment of special registration numbers, and at least [25] 250
19 special registration numbers are issued initially; and

20 (3) In the case of an owner who is applying as a surviving spouse, the owner
21 submits proof satisfactory to the Administration that at the time of death of the owner's
22 spouse, the deceased spouse was the holder of a special registration number issued under
23 this 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] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION, IN
28 addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under this title, an owner of a
29 vehicle assigned a special registration under this section shall pay [a fee determined by
30 the Administration] THE APPLICABLE FEE SPECIFIED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
31 SUBSECTION each time new registration plates are issued for the vehicle.

32 (2) (I) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
33 PARAGRAPH, THE ADDITIONAL fee[:

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

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

38 (iii) SHALL BE \$25 MORE THAN THE AMOUNT REQUIRED BY THE
39 ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER ITS COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

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1 (II) IN THE CASE OF AN ORGANIZATION OF ALUMNI OF AN
2 INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE STATE, THE
3 ADDITIONAL FEE SHALL BE \$50 MORE THAN THE AMOUNT REQUIRED BY THE
4 ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER ITS COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

5 (3) FROM THE ADDITIONAL FEES COLLECTED BY THE
6 ADMINISTRATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:

7 (I) ONE-THIRD SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE WORLD WAR II
8 MEMORIAL COMMISSION ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 41, § 18-303 OF THE CODE TO
9 BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF A MEMORIAL HONORING
10 VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II;

11 (II) ONE-THIRD SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE MARYLAND
12 VETERANS COMMISSION TO BE USED FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO AND THE
13 MAINTENANCE OF CEMETERIES ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 9-913
14 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE; AND

15 (III) ONE-THIRD SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE FIRE, RESCUE, AND
16 AMBULANCE FUND, ESTABLISHED UNDER ARTICLE 38A, § 45B OF THE CODE, FOR
17 CAPITAL COSTS FOR VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

18 (4) [May] FEES COLLECTED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MAY not be
19 credited to the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account for distribution under §
20 8-403 or § 8-404 of this article.

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

24 (1) The Maryland National Guard; or

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

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

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

30 2. The name, initials, or abbreviation of the name of the
31 organization; or

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

33 2. The name, initials, or abbreviation of the name of the
34 organization; and

35 3. An emblem or logo as authorized by the Administration that
36 depicts the organization.

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

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

3 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any funds credited to the
4 Maryland Veterans Commission under this Act shall be supplemental to and not in
5 substitution of any revenues available to the Commission from any other source.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed
7 to apply only to the issuance of registration plates under § 13-619 of the Transportation
8 Article when the current multi-year registration plates expire, and the Motor Vehicle
9 Administration is not required to reclaim or reissue any current registration plates issued
10 under § 13-619 of the Transportation Article until the regular expiration of current
11 plates.

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