
By: **Delegate Benson**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1999

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Administration - Special Registration Plates**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue special
4 registration plates to individuals with certain disabilities or language
5 impairment; requiring a licensed physician to certify that an individual has
6 certain conditions before the individual qualifies for the special registration
7 plates; providing for the design of the special registration plates; requiring
8 certain individuals to have certain identification available for inspection by a
9 police officer at certain times; providing that individuals with special
10 registration plates issued under this Act are not entitled to certain parking
11 privileges; prohibiting certain misrepresentations; providing for a penalty for
12 violations of this Act; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to administer
13 the special registration plates program; and generally relating to special
14 registration plates for individuals with disabilities.

15 BY adding to
16 Article - Transportation
17 Section 13-616.3
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1998 Replacement Volume and 1998 Supplement)

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

22 **Article - Transportation**

23 13-616.3.

24 (A) (1) THE OWNER OF ANY VEHICLE DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
25 SUBSECTION MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT TO THAT
26 VEHICLE OF A SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBER AND SPECIAL REGISTRATION
27 PLATES, IF THE APPLICANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH:

28 (I) SENSORY DISABILITIES OF HEARING OR SPEECH; OR

1 (II) LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENTS.

2 (2) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO:

3 (I) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;

4 (II) A CLASS D (MOTORCYCLE) VEHICLE;

5 (III) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE;

6 (IV) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A 1 TON OR LESS
7 MANUFACTURER'S RATED CAPACITY; OR

8 (V) A CLASS H, CLASS I, OR CLASS J VEHICLE THAT IS SPECIALLY
9 EQUIPPED FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES AND IS
10 USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH
11 DISABILITIES.

12 (B) SPECIAL REGISTRATION AND SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES MAY BE
13 ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION ONLY IF A LICENSED PHYSICIAN CERTIFIES THAT THE
14 APPLICANT IS AN INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(1)
15 OF THIS SECTION.

16 (C) AN APPLICANT FOR RENEWAL OF SPECIAL REGISTRATION AND SPECIAL
17 REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL SUBMIT PROOF OF THE
18 DISABILITY TO THE ADMINISTRATION BEFORE THE ISSUANCE OF THE NEW
19 MULTIYEAR REGISTRATION PLATES AND BEFORE THE RENEWAL OF THE
20 REGISTRATION EVERY 4 YEARS THEREAFTER.

21 (D) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER §§ 13-951 AND 13-952 OF THIS TITLE, NO FEE
22 IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE REQUIRED BY THIS
23 TITLE IS REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION.

24 (E) A SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBER ASSIGNED UNDER THIS SECTION
25 SHALL:

26 (1) CONSIST OF THE LETTERS, NUMERALS, OR BOTH THAT THE
27 ADMINISTRATION SPECIFIES; AND

28 (2) BE DISPLAYED ON SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED FOR THE
29 VEHICLE.

30 (F) A PERSON FOR WHOM SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES ARE ISSUED
31 UNDER THIS SECTION IS NOT ENTITLED TO ANY PARKING PRIVILEGES AVAILABLE
32 UNDER § 13-616 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

33 (G) WHILE DRIVING THE MOTOR VEHICLE WITH THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION
34 PLATES, THE PERSON SHALL:

35 (1) HAVE IN THE PERSON'S POSSESSION THE APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL
36 REGISTRATION PLATES THAT WAS APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

1 (2) MAKE THE APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES
2 AVAILABLE UPON THE REQUEST OF A POLICE OFFICER, WHILE THE OFFICER IS
3 DISCHARGING THE OFFICIAL DUTIES OF A POLICE OFFICER.

4 (H) A PERSON MAY NOT COMMIT ANY FRAUD IN APPLYING FOR SPECIAL
5 REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION.

6 (I) A PERSON MAY NOT COMMIT ANY FRAUD IN USING SPECIAL
7 REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION.

8 (J) A PERSON MAY NOT MAKE ANY MISREPRESENTATION IN APPLYING FOR
9 SPECIAL REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION.

10 (K) A PERSON MAY NOT MAKE ANY MISREPRESENTATION IN USING SPECIAL
11 REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION.

12 (L) ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION IS
13 GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS OF § 27-101 OF THIS
14 ARTICLE.

15 (M) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADMINISTER THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION
16 PLATES PROGRAM IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 1999.