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By: **Delegate C. Davis**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2000

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2                                   **Vehicle Laws - Special Registration Plate - Support for Transportation Trust**  
3                                   **Fund**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a special  
5 original or substitute license plate to benefit the Transportation Trust Fund;  
6 authorizing certain vehicle owners to apply for the special registration plate;  
7 prohibiting the Administration from issuing more than one special registration  
8 plate that benefits the Transportation Trust Fund; requiring the Administration  
9 to establish a fee for special registration plates under this Act that is sufficient  
10 to cover certain costs; authorizing the Administration to charge a fee that would  
11 result in a surplus after the deduction of certain costs; requiring any surplus  
12 funds resulting from the issuance of the special registration plates to be  
13 transferred to the Transportation Trust Fund; providing for the design of the  
14 special registration plates; requiring a certain special registration number or  
15 design to be displayed on the special registration plate; requiring the  
16 Administration to adopt certain regulations; and generally relating to special  
17 registration plates and the Transportation Trust Fund.

18 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
19 Article - Transportation  
20 Section 3-216(a), (b), (c)(1), and (d)(1) and (2)  
21 Annotated Code of Maryland  
22 (1993 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

23 BY adding to  
24 Article - Transportation  
25 Section 13-618.1  
26 Annotated Code of Maryland  
27 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

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**Article - Transportation**

2 3-216.

3 (a) There is a Transportation Trust Fund for the Department.

4 (b) Except as otherwise expressly provided by statute, there shall be credited  
5 to the Transportation Trust Fund for the account of the Department all taxes, fees,  
6 charges, and revenues collected or received by or paid, appropriated, or credited to the  
7 account of the Department or any of its units in the exercise of their rights, powers,  
8 duties, or obligations, including the cash proceeds of the sale of consolidated  
9 transportation bonds, notes, or other evidences of obligation issued by the  
10 Department, any general fund appropriations, and the proceeds of any State loan or  
11 federal grant made for transportation purposes.

12 (c) (1) There shall be maintained in the Transportation Trust Fund one or  
13 more sinking fund accounts to which shall be credited and from which shall be paid,  
14 from the proceeds of the taxes levied and imposed for that purpose or from any other  
15 funds of the Department, amounts sufficient at all times to meet the debt service on  
16 all bonds of prior issues and consolidated transportation bonds from time to time  
17 outstanding and unpaid.

18 (d) (1) After meeting its debt service requirements, the Department may use  
19 the funds in the Transportation Trust Fund for any lawful purpose related to the  
20 exercise of its rights, powers, duties, and obligations.

21 (2) Expenditures under this subsection shall be made in accordance with  
22 any appropriation provided for in any applicable budget bill or supplementary  
23 appropriation bill. However, an appropriation proposed to be made to any unit in the  
24 Department or proposed to be made for any designated transportation activity,  
25 function, or undertaking that has been reduced by the General Assembly may not be  
26 restored, for the same purpose as originally proposed, except in an emergency, by the  
27 budget amendment procedure of § 7-209 of the State Finance and Procurement  
28 Article, or otherwise if the General Assembly in striking or reducing the  
29 appropriation, prohibited its restoration. However, except for emergency capital  
30 projects, if the General Assembly explicitly reduces in the budget bill an  
31 appropriation proposed for a major capital project as defined in § 2-103.1(a)(4) of this  
32 article, the appropriation may not be restored for the same purpose as originally  
33 proposed by the budget amendment procedure of § 7-209 of the State Finance and  
34 Procurement Article or otherwise unless the General Assembly, in striking or  
35 reducing the appropriation, expressly authorized its restoration.

36 13-618.1.

37 (A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ISSUE SPECIAL ORIGINAL OR SUBSTITUTE  
38 REGISTRATION PLATES TO BENEFIT THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST FUND.

39 (B) THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE, OR A LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE UNDER A  
40 LEASE NOT INTENDED AS SECURITY, OR A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR  
41 PARTNER OF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT OWNS A VEHICLE MAY APPLY TO THE

1 ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER THIS  
2 SECTION IF THE VEHICLE IS INCLUDED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

- 3 (1) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;
- 4 (2) A CLASS B (FOR HIRE) VEHICLE;
- 5 (3) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A MANUFACTURER'S RATED  
6 CAPACITY OF ONE TON OR LESS;
- 7 (4) A CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE; OR
- 8 (5) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE.

9 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ONLY ISSUE ONE REGISTRATION PLATE  
10 UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION AT ANY ONE TIME.

11 (D) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE  
12 REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE, AN OWNER OF A VEHICLE ASSIGNED A REGISTRATION  
13 PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PAY THE FEE SET BY THE ADMINISTRATION  
14 WHEN THE NEW REGISTRATION PLATES ARE ISSUED TO THE VEHICLE OWNER  
15 UNDER THIS SECTION.

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

18 (II) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY CHARGE A FEE THAT IS  
19 SUFFICIENT TO RESULT IN A SURPLUS AFTER COSTS ARE SUBTRACTED.

20 (III) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL RETAIN A PORTION OF THE FEE  
21 THAT IS SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER ANY COSTS OF  
22 ISSUING AND DISTRIBUTING REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.

23 (IV) ANY SURPLUS MONEYS REMAINING AFTER THE  
24 ADMINISTRATION HAS RECOVERED THE COSTS OF ISSUING A REGISTRATION PLATE  
25 UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE TRANSPORTATION TRUST  
26 FUND.

27 (E) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS CONSISTENT WITH  
28 THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW TO GOVERN THE ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL  
29 REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.

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

- 32 (I) ANY COMBINATION OF:
  - 33 1. LETTERS; AND
  - 34 2. NUMERALS; AND

1 (II) A DESIGN APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE  
2 DEPARTMENT THAT REFLECTS SUPPORT FOR THE STATE'S TRANSPORTATION  
3 SYSTEM.

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

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
8 October 1, 2000.