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CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Special Commemorative Registration Plates - Honoring**
3 **State Agriculture**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue~~
5 ~~commemorative license plates of a design approved by the Administration to~~
6 ~~honor State agriculture; requiring the Administration, after recovering the costs~~
7 ~~of issuing special registration plates under this Act, to disburse any surplus~~
8 ~~moneys to a nonprofit organization that is closely related to State agriculture;~~
9 ~~requiring the Administration to adopt certain regulations before designating a~~
10 ~~nonprofit organization to receive the surplus moneys; and generally relating to~~
11 ~~special registration plates; requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to~~
12 develop and make available a specially designed registration plate honoring
13 Maryland agriculture; prescribing who may apply for and the classes of vehicles
14 eligible for the registration plate; providing the manner in which fees will be
15 established, collected, and distributed in connection with the registration plate;
16 requiring the Administration to consult with the Maryland Agricultural
17 Education Foundation, Inc. on certain matters; providing a certain fee
18 exemption applicable to disabled veterans; requiring the Administration to
19 adopt certain regulations; declaring the intent of the General Assembly;
20 providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the issuance
21 of a special registration plate honoring Maryland agriculture and benefitting
22 the Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc.

1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 2 Article - Transportation
 3 Section ~~13-618~~ 13-903(d)
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

6 BY adding to
 7 Article - Transportation
 8 Section 13-619.2
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

13 **Article - Transportation**

14 ~~13-618.~~

15 (a) ~~The Administration may issue special commemorative original or~~
 16 ~~substitute registration plates for any geographical, historical, natural resource,~~
 17 ~~AGRICULTURAL, or environmental commemoration of statewide significance.~~

18 (b) ~~The owner of a vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a lease not intended~~
 19 ~~as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business entity that owns~~
 20 ~~the vehicle considered eligible by the Administration may apply to the Administration~~
 21 ~~for the assignment of a commemorative registration plate under this section if the~~
 22 ~~vehicle is included in one of the following classes:~~

23 (1) ~~A Class A (passenger) vehicle;~~

24 (2) ~~A Class B (for hire) vehicle;~~

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

27 (4) ~~A Class G (trailer) vehicle; or~~

28 (5) ~~A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.~~

29 (c) (1) ~~An original or substitute commemorative plate may only be issued~~
 30 ~~under this section for a fixed period of 2 consecutive years after its initial issuance.~~

31 (2) ~~The Administration may only issue 1 commemorative plate under~~
 32 ~~this section at any one time.~~

33 (d) (1) ~~In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under~~
 34 ~~this title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a commemorative registration plate under~~

1 this section shall pay the fee set by the Administration when the new registration
2 plates are issued to the vehicle under this section.

3 (2) (i) The Administration shall set the fee at a level that will enable
4 the Administration to recover its costs under this section.

5 (ii) The Administration may charge a fee that is sufficient to result
6 in a surplus after costs are subtracted.

7 (iii) The Administration shall retain a portion of the fee that is
8 sufficient to allow the Administration to recover any costs of issuing and distributing
9 commemorative plates under this section.

10 (iv) Any surplus moneys remaining after the Administration has
11 recovered the costs of issuing a commemorative plate under this section may not be
12 retained by or transferred to any agency of the State for any purpose.

13 (v) Notwithstanding subparagraph (iv) of this paragraph, the
14 surplus moneys may be retained for the purpose described in paragraph (3) of this
15 subsection.

16 (3) The surplus moneys shall be disbursed by the Administration to a
17 nonprofit organization that is:

18 (i) Closely related to the geographical, historical, natural resource,
19 AGRICULTURAL, or environmental theme which the plate commemorates; and

20 (ii) Designated by the Administration under subsection (e) of this
21 section.

22 (4) No portion of the fee may be credited to the Gasoline and Motor
23 Vehicle Revenue Account for distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of the
24 Transportation Article.

25 (e) (1) The Administration shall adopt regulations not inconsistent with the
26 Maryland Vehicle Law to govern the issuance of special registration plates under this
27 section.

28 (2) Before designating any nonprofit organization to receive any surplus
29 moneys and before distributing any surplus moneys to any nonprofit organization,
30 the Administration shall adopt regulations specific to each new commemorative plate
31 detailing:

32 (i) The name and nature of the nonprofit organization receiving
33 the money;

34 (ii) The relationship of the nonprofit organization to the
35 geographical, historical, natural resource, AGRICULTURAL, or environmental theme
36 which the plate commemorates; and

1 (iii) ~~The plan of distribution of the funds.~~

2 (f) ~~The additional fee to the annual registration fee required by this section is~~
 3 ~~not required for special registration of a vehicle that is exempt under § 13-903 of this~~
 4 ~~title, or a vehicle with a special registration plate recognizing:~~

5 (1) ~~The Maryland National Guard; or~~

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

8 (g) (1) ~~A special registration number as specified by the Administration and~~
 9 ~~assigned under this section may consist of:~~

10 (i) ~~Any combination of:~~

11 1. ~~Letters; and~~

12 2. ~~Numerals; and~~

13 (ii) ~~Any design approved by the Administration that adequately~~
 14 ~~reflects the geographical, historical, natural resource, AGRICULTURAL, or~~
 15 ~~environmental theme which the plate commemorates.~~

16 (2) ~~A special registration number or design assigned under this section~~
 17 ~~shall be displayed on the registration plates for the vehicle.~~

18 13-619.2.

19 (A) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
 20 FOUNDATION, INC., THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL DEVELOP AND MAKE AVAILABLE
 21 FOR QUALIFYING VEHICLES A SPECIALLY DESIGNED REGISTRATION PLATE
 22 HONORING MARYLAND AGRICULTURE.

23 (B) THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE, OR A LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE UNDER A
 24 LEASE NOT INTENDED AS SECURITY, OR A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR
 25 PARTNER OF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT OWNS THE VEHICLE CONSIDERED ELIGIBLE
 26 BY THE ADMINISTRATION MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR AN ORIGINAL
 27 OR SUBSTITUTE REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE VEHICLE IS
 28 INCLUDED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

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

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

31 (3) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A MANUFACTURER'S RATED
 32 CAPACITY OF ONE TON OR LESS;

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

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

1 (C) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE
2 REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE, AN OWNER OF A VEHICLE ASSIGNED A REGISTRATION
3 PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PAY:

4 (I) WHEN INITIALLY ISSUED THE REGISTRATION PLATE, A
5 ONE-TIME FEE SET BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER THE ADMINISTRATION'S
6 COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

7 (II) WHEN INITIALLY ISSUED THE REGISTRATION PLATE, AND
8 EACH TIME THE REGISTRATION PLATE IS RENEWED, AN ADDITIONAL FEE SET BY
9 THE ADMINISTRATION TO BENEFIT THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
10 FOUNDATION, INC.

11 (2) THE ADDITIONAL FEE COLLECTED UNDER THIS SECTION IS NOT
12 REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF A VEHICLE THAT IS EXEMPT UNDER §
13 13-903 OF THIS TITLE.

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

17 (D) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL CONSULT WITH THE MARYLAND
18 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC. ON:

19 (1) THE DESIGN OF A REGISTRATION PLATE TO BE ISSUED UNDER THIS
20 SECTION TO HONOR MARYLAND AGRICULTURE;

21 (2) THE SETTING OF THE FEE TO BE CHARGED UNDER SUBSECTION
22 (C)(1)(II) OF THIS SECTION AT A LEVEL INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE THE PURCHASE OF
23 THE REGISTRATION PLATE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION WHILE PROVIDING A
24 CONTINUOUS REVENUE SOURCE TO BENEFIT THE FOUNDATION; AND

25 (3) A SCHEDULE UNDER WHICH THE ADMINISTRATION WILL TRANSFER
26 TO THE FOUNDATION REVENUE COLLECTED ON THE FOUNDATION'S BEHALF.

27 (E) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE
28 ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.

29 13-903.

30 (d) A disabled veteran whose vehicle is eligible for exemption under subsection
31 (a)(8) of this section may, if eligible, receive the special registration number and
32 special registration plates provided under § 13-616, § 13-617, § 13-618, § 13-619,
33 [or] § 13-619.1, OR § 13-619.2 of this title without payment of the registration fees
34 specified in this subtitle.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That it is the intent of the
36 General Assembly that the Motor Vehicle Administration shall work with the
37 Maryland Agricultural Education Foundation, Inc. on the development of a special

1 registration plate described under Section 1 of this Act and make the plate available
2 to the public at the earliest date practicable, but not later than July 1, 2001.

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
4 ~~October~~ July 1, 2000. It shall remain effective for a period of 6 years and, at the end
5 of June 30, 2006, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
6 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.