
By: **Delegates Kach and Conroy**
 Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2006
 Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Registration Plates for Recipients of an Armed**
 3 **Forces Medal - Surviving Spouse**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the surviving spouse of a deceased vehicle owner who
 5 possessed special registration plates for recipients of certain individually
 6 earned, combat-related, armed forces medals to return to the Motor Vehicle
 7 Administration, at a certain time, the special registration plate and validation
 8 tabs displayed on the rear of the deceased owner's vehicle; authorizing the
 9 surviving spouse to retain a special registration plate that was displayed on the
 10 front of the deceased vehicle owner's vehicle; prohibiting the display on any
 11 vehicle of a special registration plate that was displayed on the front of the
 12 deceased owner's vehicle; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to
 13 special registration plates for recipients of an individually earned,
 14 combat-related, armed forces medal.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 16 Article - Transportation
 17 Section 13-504
 18 Annotated Code of Maryland
 19 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2005 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 13-504.

24 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, if the title or interest of an
 25 owner in a registered vehicle passes to another person other than by voluntary
 26 transfer:

27 (1) The registration of the vehicle expires; and

1 (2) The vehicle may not be driven on a highway until the person entitled
2 to possession of the vehicle applies for and obtains a new registration of the vehicle.

3 (b) [However, the] THE person entitled to possession of the vehicle, or [his]
4 THE PERSON'S authorized representative, may drive the vehicle on highways in this
5 State for a distance of not more than 200 miles, but only from the place that the
6 person or [his] THE PERSON'S authorized representative obtained possession of the
7 vehicle to the person's place of business, residence, or other place where the vehicle is
8 to be kept.

9 (c) During the operation of a vehicle described in subsection (b) of this section,
10 the registration plates issued to the former owner may be displayed on the vehicle.

11 (d) [After] ON OR BEFORE THE COMPLETION OF the operation of a vehicle
12 described in subsection (b) of this section [is completed or, even before this operation
13 is completed], on request of the former owner or the Administration, the person who
14 obtained possession of the vehicle shall return its registration plates to the former
15 owner or to the Administration.

16 (e) After 24 hours of the earlier of the request or the completion of the
17 operation described in subsection (b) of this section, no person, other than the person
18 to whom the registration plates originally were issued, may [have the registration
19 plates in his] RETAIN possession OF THE REGISTRATION PLATES, whether or not they
20 are in use.

21 (f) (1) If the title or interest of an owner in a registered vehicle passes to a
22 legatee or distributee as a result of testamentary disposition or intestate devolution,
23 the personal representative, legatee, or distributee may drive the vehicle and permit
24 it to be driven on the highways, without applying for a new registration, until the
25 expiration of the last annual registration in the name of the deceased owner.

26 (2) (I) UPON THE EXPIRATION OF THE LAST ANNUAL REGISTRATION
27 IN THE NAME OF A DECEASED OWNER WHO POSSESSED SPECIAL REGISTRATION
28 PLATES THAT WERE ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 13-619.1 OF THIS
29 TITLE, A LEGATEE OR DISTRIBUTEE WHO IS THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE
30 DECEASED OWNER:

31 1. SHALL RETURN TO THE ADMINISTRATION THE SPECIAL
32 REGISTRATION PLATE AND VALIDATION TABS THAT WERE DISPLAYED ON THE REAR
33 OF THE DECEASED OWNER'S VEHICLE; AND

34 2. MAY RETAIN A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE THAT WAS
35 DISPLAYED ON THE FRONT OF THE DECEASED OWNER'S VEHICLE.

36 (II) A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE DESCRIBED IN
37 SUBPARAGRAPH (I)2 OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE DISPLAYED ON ANY VEHICLE.

38 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
39 October 1, 2006.