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By: **Delegates Kach and Conroy**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Vehicle Registration Plates for Recipients of the Purple**  
3 **Heart - Surviving Spouse**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the surviving spouse of the deceased owner of a vehicle  
5 displaying special registration plates depicting the Purple Heart Medal to  
6 return to the Motor Vehicle Administration, at a certain time, the registration  
7 plate displayed on the rear of the deceased owner's vehicle; authorizing the  
8 surviving spouse to retain the special registration plate displayed on the front of  
9 the deceased owner's vehicle; prohibiting the display, on a vehicle, of a special  
10 registration plate that was displayed on the front of the deceased owner's  
11 vehicle; making stylistic changes; and generally relating to special registration  
12 plates that depict the Purple Heart Medal.

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

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

20 **Article - Transportation**

21 13-504.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (2) (I) ON THE EXPIRATION OF THE LAST ANNUAL REGISTRATION IN  
24 THE NAME OF A DECEASED OWNER WHO POSSESSED SPECIAL REGISTRATION  
25 PLATES THAT WERE ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION UNDER § 13-619.1 OF THIS  
26 TITLE AND DEPICT THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL, A LEGATEE OR DISTRIBUTEE WHO IS  
27 THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE DECEASED OWNER:

28 1. SHALL RETURN TO THE ADMINISTRATION THE SPECIAL  
29 REGISTRATION PLATE AND VALIDATION TABS DISPLAYED ON THE REAR OF THE  
30 DECEASED SPOUSE'S VEHICLE; AND

31 2. MAY RETAIN THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE  
32 DISPLAYED ON THE FRONT OF THE DECEASED SPOUSE'S VEHICLE.

33 (II) A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE RETAINED UNDER  
34 SUBPARAGRAPH (I)2 OF THIS PARAGRAPH MAY NOT BE DISPLAYED ON ANY VEHICLE.

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