

HOUSE BILL 708

R4

8lr1692

By: **Delegates Costa, Dwyer, Love, McKee, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Gold Star License Plates – Fees and Eligibility**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing a Gold Star special registration plate honoring
4 certain individuals who died while serving in the armed forces of the United
5 States and honoring their families; authorizing certain persons to apply for the
6 Gold Star plate for certain motor vehicles; requiring an applicant for a Gold
7 Star plate to provide certain proof that the applicant is an immediate family
8 member of an individual who died under certain circumstances while serving in
9 the armed forces of the United States; requiring certain owners of vehicles
10 assigned a Gold Star plate to pay a certain fee; requiring that the fee be used
11 only for certain purposes; requiring the Gold Star plate to include a certain
12 symbol and certain words; authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to
13 adopt regulations relating to the Gold Star plate; requiring that the owner of a
14 vehicle assigned a Gold Star plate be admitted to any Maryland State park,
15 forest, or recreation area free of charge; defining a certain term; and generally
16 relating to the Gold Star special registration plate.

17 BY adding to
18 Article – Transportation
19 Section 13–619.3
20 Annotated Code of Maryland
21 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

22 BY adding to
23 Article – Natural Resources
24 Section 5–1008.1
25 Annotated Code of Maryland
26 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **Article – Transportation**

2 **13-619.3.**

3 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER” MEANS A:

4 (1) SURVIVING SPOUSE;

5 (2) PARENT;

6 (3) CHILD;

7 (4) SIBLING; OR

8 (5) GRANDPARENT.

9 (B) (1) THE OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE, OR A LESSEE OF THE
10 VEHICLE UNDER A LEASE NOT INTENDED AS SECURITY, OR A DIRECTOR,
11 OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, OR PARTNER OF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT OWNS THE
12 VEHICLE MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF A
13 SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBER AND SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER
14 THIS SECTION FOR A VEHICLE INCLUDED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:

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

16 (II) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A 1 TON OR LESS
17 MANUFACTURER’S RATED CAPACITY;

18 (III) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE; OR

19 (IV) A CLASS D (MOTORCYCLE) VEHICLE.

20 (2) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL REGISTRATION UNDER
21 SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE PROOF THAT
22 IS SATISFACTORY TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE APPLICANT IS AN
23 IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER OF AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DIED FROM CAUSES NOT
24 DISHONORABLE WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE ARMED FORCES OF
25 THE UNITED STATES.

26 (C) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
27 SUBSECTION, IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE
28 REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE, AN OWNER OF A VEHICLE ASSIGNED A SPECIAL
29 REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PAY A FEE AS DETERMINED BY THE

1 ADMINISTRATION EACH TIME NEW REGISTRATION PLATES ARE ISSUED FOR THE
2 VEHICLE.

3 (2) THE ADDITIONAL FEE COLLECTED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY
4 NOT:

5 (I) EXCEED THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO RECOVER THE
6 COSTS INCURRED BY THE ADMINISTRATION IN CARRYING OUT THE PROVISIONS
7 OF THIS SECTION;

8 (II) BE CHARGED TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE OF THE
9 INDIVIDUAL WHO DIED WHILE ON ACTIVE DUTY, OR IF THERE IS NOT A
10 SURVIVING SPOUSE, TO A PARENT OF THAT INDIVIDUAL; OR

11 (III) BE CREDITED TO THE GASOLINE AND MOTOR VEHICLE
12 REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER § 8-403 OR § 8-404 OF THIS
13 ARTICLE.

14 (D) SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION:

15 (1) MAY CONSIST OF ANY COMBINATION OF LETTERS, NUMERALS,
16 OR BOTH; AND

17 (2) SHALL INCLUDE:

18 (I) A GOLD STAR BORDERED WITH BLUE; AND

19 (II) EXCEPT ON PLATES ISSUED FOR CLASS D
20 (MOTORCYCLE) VEHICLES, THE WORDS "GOLD STAR FAMILY" PRINTED ACROSS
21 THE BOTTOM OF THE PLATES.

22 (E) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO GOVERN THE
23 ISSUANCE OF SPECIAL REGISTRATION NUMBERS AND SPECIAL REGISTRATION
24 PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.

25 Article - Natural Resources

26 5-1008.1.

27 NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW, AN OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE
28 ASSIGNED A SPECIAL REGISTRATION UNDER § 13-619.3 OF THE
29 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE SHALL BE ADMITTED TO ANY MARYLAND STATE
30 PARK, FOREST, OR RECREATION AREA FREE OF CHARGE.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2008.