

# HOUSE BILL 1425

R4

8lr0271

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By: **Chair, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Veterans Affairs) and Delegate Costa**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 19, 2008

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

### 2 **Vehicle Laws - Gold Star Registration Plates**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing a recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense Gold  
4 Star as the surviving spouse, parent, or next of kin of a member of the armed  
5 forces whose life was lost in combat to apply under certain circumstances to the  
6 Motor Vehicle Administration for assignment of a special registration plate;  
7 requiring the surviving spouse, parent, or next of kin applying for a special Gold  
8 Star registration plate to provide certain proof to the Administration; requiring  
9 the special Gold Star registration plate to display certain information; clarifying  
10 language; and generally relating to eligibility for special vehicle registration  
11 plates.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article - Transportation  
14 Section 13-619.1  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

### 19 **Article - Transportation**

20 13-619.1.

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (a) (1) The owner of a motor vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a  
2 lease not intended as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business  
3 entity that owns the vehicle may apply to the Administration for the assignment of a  
4 special registration number and special registration plates under this section for a  
5 vehicle included in one of the following classes:

6 (i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

7 (ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less  
8 manufacturer's rated capacity;

9 (iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle; or

10 (iv) A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle.

11 (2) To be eligible for a special registration **DESCRIBED** under  
12 subsection (c)(2)(i) of this section, an applicant shall provide proof that is satisfactory  
13 to the Administration that the applicant is a recipient of an individually earned,  
14 combat-related, armed forces medal.

15 (3) To be eligible for a special registration **DESCRIBED** under  
16 subsection (c)(2)(ii) of this section, an applicant shall provide proof that is satisfactory  
17 to the Administration that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of a  
18 branch of the armed forces of the United States.

19 **(4) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL REGISTRATION DESCRIBED**  
20 **UNDER SUBSECTION (C)(2)(III) OF THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL**  
21 **PROVIDE PROOF THAT IS SATISFACTORY TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE**  
22 **APPLICANT IS A RECIPIENT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE GOLD**  
23 **STAR FOR SURVIVING SPOUSES, PARENTS, AND NEXT OF KIN OF MEMBERS OF**  
24 **THE ARMED FORCES WHO LOST THEIR LIVES IN COMBAT.**

25 (b) (1) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under  
26 this title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a special registration under this section shall  
27 pay a fee as determined by the Administration each time new registration plates are  
28 issued for the vehicle. The fee shall be calculated to recover the costs incurred by the  
29 Administration in carrying out the provisions of this section.

30 (2) The additional fee charged under this section shall be retained by  
31 the Administration for the purpose of recovering the Administration's costs under this  
32 section, and may not be credited to the Gasoline and Motor Vehicle Revenue Account  
33 for distribution under § 8-403 or § 8-404 of this article.

34 (c) Special registration plates issued under this section:

35 (1) May consist of any combination of letters, numerals, or both; and

1 (2) Shall include:

2 (i) **FOR REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED FOR AN APPLICANT**  
3 **DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A)(2) OF THIS SECTION:**

4 1. An emblem or logo as authorized by the  
5 Administration that depicts the **APPLICANT’S ARMED FORCES** medal; and

6 2. Except on plates issued for Class D (motorcycle)  
7 vehicles, words describing the medal printed across the bottom of the plates; [or]

8 (ii) Words or an emblem or logo indicating that the special  
9 registration plate holder is an honorably discharged veteran of a branch of the armed  
10 forces of the United States; **OR**

11 (iii) **AN EMBLEM OR LOGO INDICATING THAT THE**  
12 **REGISTRATION PLATE HOLDER IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT**  
13 **OF DEFENSE GOLD STAR.**

14 (d) (1) The Administration, in consultation with the U.S. Department of  
15 Defense and appropriate representatives of the various branches of the armed forces,  
16 shall adopt regulations specifying those armed forces medals that are of the type  
17 described in subsection (a)(2) of this section and which, when awarded to an  
18 individual, qualify that individual to apply for special registration under this section.

19 (2) The Administration may adopt other regulations as necessary to  
20 govern the issuance of special registration numbers and special registration plates  
21 under this section.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.