

HOUSE BILL 1574

R4

8lr3417

By: **Delegate O'Donnell**

Introduced and read first time: February 28, 2008

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Registration for Individuals with Disabilities**

3 FOR the purpose of creating an exception to a provision of law limiting the acceptance
4 of applications for special disability vehicle registrations to authorize the Motor
5 Vehicle Administration to accept an application for an additional special
6 disability registration from an applicant who possesses a valid special disability
7 registration and possessed two valid special registrations before a certain date;
8 prohibiting the Administration from issuing a special disability parking placard
9 to a person who requests a certain number of special disability registrations;
10 and generally relating to special disability registrations.

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 13–616(b)(1) and (4)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 13–616(c) and 13–616.1(c)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

23 **Article – Transportation**

24 13–616.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (b) (1) The owner of any vehicle described in paragraph (3) of this
2 subsection may apply to the Administration for the assignment to that vehicle of a
3 special disability registration number and special disability registration plates, if a
4 licensed physician, licensed chiropractor, licensed optometrist, or licensed podiatrist
5 certifies, in accordance with paragraph (2) of this subsection, that the applicant:

6 (i) Has lung disease to such an extent that forced (respiratory)
7 expiratory volume for one second when measured by spirometry is less than one liter,
8 or arterial oxygen tension (PO₂) is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;

9 (ii) Has cardiovascular disease limitations classified in severity
10 as Class III or Class IV according to standards accepted by the American Heart
11 Association;

12 (iii) Is unable to walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

13 (iv) Is unable to walk without the use of, or assistance from, a
14 brace, cane, crutch, another person, prosthetic device, or other assistive device;

15 (v) Requires a wheelchair for mobility;

16 (vi) Has lost a foot, leg, hand, or arm;

17 (vii) Has lost the use of a foot, leg, hand, or arm;

18 (viii) Has a permanent impairment of both eyes so that:

19 1. The central visual acuity is 20/200 or less in the better
20 eye, with corrective glasses; or

21 2. There is a field defect in which the peripheral field
22 has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an
23 angular distance no greater than 20 degrees in the better eye; or

24 (ix) Has a permanent disability that adversely impacts the
25 ambulatory ability of the applicant and which is so severe that the person would
26 endure a hardship or be subject to a risk of injury if the privileges accorded a person
27 for whom a vehicle is specially registered under this section were denied.

28 (4) (i) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (1) of this
29 subsection, a nursing home, health care facility, adult day care facility, retirement
30 home, or other facility that regularly provides transportation for individuals with
31 disabilities may apply to the Administration for special disability registration for
32 vehicles owned by the facility.

33 (ii) An application for special disability registration under this
34 paragraph shall contain:

1 1. The certification of the owner or operator of the
2 facility that the vehicle for which the registration is sought is used exclusively for the
3 transportation of individuals with disabilities as described in paragraph (1) of this
4 subsection; and

5 2. Any other information or documentation concerning
6 the facility or the vehicle that the Administration requires.

7 (c) (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b)(4) of this section,
8 special registration and special registration plates may be issued under this section
9 only if the applicant submits proof satisfactory to the Administration that the
10 applicant is an individual with a disability described in subsection (b)(1) of this
11 section.

12 (2) Except as provided by subsection (b)(4) of this section **AND**
13 **PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION**, the Administration may not accept
14 applications for special registration under this section from an applicant who, at the
15 time of application:

16 (i) Possesses one valid special registration issued under this
17 section; or

18 (ii) Possesses two parking placards issued under § 13-616.1 of
19 this subtitle.

20 **(3) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ACCEPT AN APPLICATION FOR AN**
21 **ADDITIONAL SPECIAL REGISTRATION UNDER THIS SECTION FROM AN**
22 **APPLICANT WHO:**

23 **(I) POSSESSES ONE VALID SPECIAL REGISTRATION ISSUED**
24 **UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

25 **(II) POSSESSED TWO VALID SPECIAL REGISTRATIONS**
26 **ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2006.**

27 13-616.1.

28 (c) (1) The Administration may not issue to an applicant:

29 (i) **ANY PLACARDS IF THE APPLICANT REQUESTS TWO SETS**
30 **OF SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER § 13-616 OF THIS SUBTITLE;**

31 (ii) More than one placard if the applicant requests one set of
32 special registration plates under § 13-616 of this subtitle; or

1 [(ii)] (III) More than two placards if the applicant does not
2 request a set of special registration plates under § 13–616 of this subtitle.

3 (2) The Administration may not issue to a person issued special
4 vehicle registration plates under § 13–616 of this subtitle a combination of special
5 disability registration plates and placards exceeding two.

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