

# HOUSE BILL 773

R4, P1  
HB 1265/18 – ENV

9lr2306

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By: **Delegates P. Young, Bartlett, Brooks, Carey, Chang, Charkoudian, Corderman, Crosby, Ebersole, W. Fisher, Gaines, Hornberger, Jalisi, Johnson, Krimm, Mautz, Patterson, Rogers, Sample-Hughes, Solomon, Stein, and Valentino-Smith**

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 9, 2019

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Registration – Special Plates for ~~Honorably Discharged~~ Veterans – Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to ~~develop and issue special~~  
4 ~~registration plates for honorably discharged veterans of all branches of the armed~~  
5 ~~forces of the United States; specifying who may apply and the classes of vehicles~~  
6 ~~eligible for the special registration plates; establishing the manner in which certain~~  
7 ~~fees will be established, retained, and credited in connection with the special~~  
8 ~~registration plates; specifying the contents of the special registration plates;~~  
9 ~~requiring the Administration to adopt certain regulations; altering the composition~~  
10 ~~of the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund; and generally relating to the issuance of~~  
11 ~~special registration plates for honorably discharged veterans of all branches of the~~  
12 ~~armed forces of the United States~~ charge a certain additional fee on the issuance of  
13 special registration plates for recipients of an individually earned, combat-related,  
14 armed forces medal; requiring that the additional fee under this Act be credited to  
15 the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund; and generally relating to the fees charged for  
16 certain special registration plates for veterans.

17 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
18 Article – State Government  
19 Section 9–913(e)  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland  
21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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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 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 2 Article – State Government  
 3 Section 9–913(g)  
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 5 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

6 ~~BY adding to~~  
 7 ~~Article – Transportation~~  
 8 ~~Section 13–619.4~~  
 9 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
 10 ~~(2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)~~

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
 12 Article – Transportation  
 13 Section 13–619.1  
 14 Annotated Code of Maryland  
 15 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

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

18 **Article – State Government**

19 9–913.

20 (e) (1) There is a Maryland Veterans Trust established for the purpose of  
 21 providing monetary and other assistance to:

22 (i) veterans and their families; and

23 (ii) public and private programs that support veterans and their  
 24 families.

25 (2) There is a Maryland Veterans Trust Fund.

26 (g) The Fund consists of:

27 (1) gifts and grants that the Trust receives under § 9–914.2(a)(1) of this  
 28 subtitle; and

29 (2) contributions to the Fund from:

30 (i) the sale of tickets from instant ticket lottery machines under §  
 31 9–112(d) of this title; [and]

1 (ii) the donations from video lottery facility players under §  
2 9-1A-04(d)(19) of this article; AND

3 (III) THE DESIGNATED FEES FROM SPECIAL REGISTRATION  
4 PLATES FOR ~~HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS OF ALL BRANCHES OF THE~~  
5 ~~ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES~~ RECIPIENTS OF AN INDIVIDUALLY EARNED,  
6 COMBAT-RELATED, ARMED FORCES MEDAL UNDER § ~~13-619.4~~ 13-619.1 OF THE  
7 TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

8 Article - Transportation

9 ~~13-619.4.~~

10 ~~(A) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL DEVELOP AND ISSUE SPECIAL~~  
11 ~~REGISTRATION PLATES FOR HONORABLY DISCHARGED VETERANS OF ALL~~  
12 ~~BRANCHES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.~~

13 ~~(2) THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE, A LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE UNDER A~~  
14 ~~LEASE NOT INTENDED AS SECURITY, OR A DIRECTOR, AN OFFICER, AN EMPLOYEE,~~  
15 ~~OR A PARTNER OF A BUSINESS ENTITY THAT OWNS THE VEHICLE CONSIDERED~~  
16 ~~ELIGIBLE BY THE ADMINISTRATION MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION FOR THE~~  
17 ~~ASSIGNMENT OF A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION IF THE~~  
18 ~~VEHICLE IS INCLUDED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CLASSES:~~

19 ~~(I) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;~~

20 ~~(II) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A MANUFACTURER'S~~  
21 ~~RATED CAPACITY OF 1 TON OR LESS;~~

22 ~~(III) A CLASS G (TRAILER) VEHICLE; OR~~

23 ~~(IV) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE.~~

24 ~~(3) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER~~  
25 ~~THIS SUBSECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE PROOF THAT IS SATISFACTORY~~  
26 ~~TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE APPLICANT IS AN HONORABLY DISCHARGED~~  
27 ~~VETERAN OF A BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.~~

28 ~~(B) (1) IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE~~  
29 ~~REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE, AN OWNER OF A VEHICLE ASSIGNED A SPECIAL~~  
30 ~~REGISTRATION PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL PAY:~~

1 ~~(I) AN ADDITIONAL INITIAL REGISTRATION FEE SET BY THE~~  
2 ~~ADMINISTRATION WHEN THE NEW REGISTRATION PLATES ARE ISSUED TO THE~~  
3 ~~VEHICLE UNDER THIS SECTION; OR~~

4 ~~(II) AN ADDITIONAL RENEWAL FEE SET BY THE~~  
5 ~~ADMINISTRATION EACH TIME THE PLATE IS RENEWED.~~

6 ~~(2) (I) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SET THE ADDITIONAL INITIAL~~  
7 ~~REGISTRATION FEE AT A LEVEL THAT:~~

8 ~~1. WILL ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER~~  
9 ~~ITS COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION; AND~~

10 ~~2. IS SUFFICIENT TO RESULT IN A SURPLUS AFTER~~  
11 ~~COSTS ARE SUBTRACTED.~~

12 ~~(II) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL RETAIN A PORTION OF THE~~  
13 ~~ADDITIONAL INITIAL REGISTRATION FEE THAT IS SUFFICIENT TO ALLOW THE~~  
14 ~~ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER ANY COSTS OF ISSUING AND DISTRIBUTING SPECIAL~~  
15 ~~REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

16 ~~(III) ANY SURPLUS MONEY REMAINING AFTER THE~~  
17 ~~ADMINISTRATION HAS RECOVERED THE COSTS OF ISSUING A SPECIAL PLATE UNDER~~  
18 ~~THIS SECTION AND MONEY COLLECTED FOR ADDITIONAL RENEWAL FEES MAY NOT~~  
19 ~~BE RETAINED BY OR TRANSFERRED TO ANY AGENCY OF THE STATE FOR ANY~~  
20 ~~PURPOSE.~~

21 ~~(IV) NOTWITHSTANDING SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS~~  
22 ~~PARAGRAPH, THE SURPLUS MONEY AND MONEY COLLECTED FOR ADDITIONAL~~  
23 ~~RENEWAL FEES SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE MARYLAND VETERANS TRUST FUND~~  
24 ~~ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-913 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.~~

25 ~~(3) NO PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL INITIAL REGISTRATION OR~~  
26 ~~RENEWAL FEES MAY BE CREDITED TO THE GASOLINE AND MOTOR VEHICLE~~  
27 ~~REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER § 8-403 OR § 8-404 OF THIS~~  
28 ~~ARTICLE.~~

29 ~~(C) ANY FEE THAT IS IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE~~  
30 ~~REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION IS NOT REQUIRED FOR SPECIAL REGISTRATION OF A~~  
31 ~~VEHICLE THAT IS EXEMPT UNDER § 13-903 OF THIS TITLE.~~

32 ~~(D) A SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION;~~

1           ~~(1) MAY CONSIST OF ANY COMBINATION OF LETTERS, NUMERALS, OR~~  
2 ~~BOTH; AND~~

3           ~~(2) SHALL INCLUDE WORDS OR AN EMBLEM OR LOGO INDICATING~~  
4 ~~THAT THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE HOLDER IS AN HONORABLY DISCHARGED~~  
5 ~~VETERAN OF A BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.~~

6           ~~(E) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS NOT~~  
7 ~~INCONSISTENT WITH THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW TO GOVERN THE ISSUANCE OF~~  
8 ~~SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

9 13-619.1.

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

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

16                   (ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less manufacturer's  
17 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 described under subsection  
21 (c)(2)(i) of this section, an applicant shall provide proof that is satisfactory to the  
22 Administration that the applicant is a recipient of an individually earned, combat-related,  
23 armed forces medal.

24           (3) To be eligible for a special registration described under subsection  
25 (c)(2)(ii) of this section, an applicant shall provide proof that is satisfactory to the  
26 Administration that the applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of a branch of the  
27 armed forces of the United States.

28           (4) To be eligible for a special registration described under subsection  
29 (c)(2)(iii) of this section, an applicant shall provide proof that is satisfactory to the  
30 Administration that the applicant is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense Gold  
31 Star for surviving spouses, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces who  
32 lost their lives in combat.

33           (b) (1) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under this  
34 title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a special registration under this section shall pay a fee

1 as determined by the Administration each time new registration plates are issued for the  
2 vehicle.

3 **(2) The fee shall be calculated to [recover]:**

4 **(I) RECOVER the costs incurred by the Administration in carrying**  
5 **out the provisions of this section; AND**

6 **(II) RESULT IN A SURPLUS OF AT LEAST \$10 FOR EACH**  
7 **ISSUANCE OF NEW REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.**

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

12 **(3) (I) THE PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE CHARGED UNDER**  
13 **PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE**  
14 **ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOVERING THE ADMINISTRATION'S**  
15 **COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION.**

16 **(II) THE PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE CHARGED UNDER**  
17 **PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION:**

18 **1. MAY NOT BE RETAINED BY OR TRANSFERRED TO ANY**  
19 **AGENCY OF THE STATE FOR ANY PURPOSE; AND**

20 **2. SHALL BE CREDITED TO THE MARYLAND VETERANS**  
21 **TRUST FUND ESTABLISHED UNDER § 9-913 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

22 **(III) NO PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE CHARGED UNDER**  
23 **THIS SUBSECTION MAY BE CREDITED TO THE GASOLINE AND MOTOR VEHICLE**  
24 **REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR DISTRIBUTION UNDER § 8-403 OR § 8-404 OF THIS**  
25 **ARTICLE.**

26 **(c) Special registration plates issued under this section:**

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

28 **(2) Shall include:**

29 **(i) For registration plates issued for an applicant described in**  
30 **subsection (a)(2) of this section:**

1                   1.     An emblem or logo as authorized by the Administration  
2 that depicts the applicant’s armed forces medal; and

3                   2.     Except on plates issued for Class D (motorcycle) vehicles,  
4 words describing the medal printed across the bottom of the plates;

5                   (ii)   Words or an emblem or logo indicating that the special  
6 registration plate holder is an honorably discharged veteran of a branch of the armed forces  
7 of the United States; or

8                   (iii)   An emblem or logo indicating that the registration plate holder  
9 is the recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense Gold Star.

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

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

18           (e)   If, whether by act of the parties or by operation of law, the title or ownership  
19 interest in a vehicle assigned a special registration under this section is transferred from  
20 the joint names of a husband and wife to the individual name of either spouse, the  
21 transferee may continue to use the same special registration plates issued under this  
22 section on the vehicle after the transfer.

23           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
24 1, 2019.

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_ Governor.

\_\_\_\_\_ Speaker of the House of Delegates.

\_\_\_\_\_ President of the Senate.