

# HOUSE BILL 646

R4, P1  
HB 773/19 – ENT

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By: **Delegates P. Young, Anderton, Boyce, Brooks, Charles, Crosby, Crutchfield, Fraser-Hidalgo, Hettleman, M. Jackson, Love, Qi, and Sample-Hughes**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 6, 2020

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Registration – Special Plates for Veterans – Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to charge a certain  
4 additional fee on the issuance of special registration plates for recipients of an  
5 individually earned, combat-related armed forces medal; requiring that the  
6 additional fee under this Act be credited to the Maryland Veterans Trust Fund;  
7 making technical corrections; and generally relating to the fees charged for certain  
8 special registration plates for veterans.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,  
10 Article – State Government  
11 Section 9–913(e)  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
15 Article – State Government  
16 Section 9–913(g)  
17 Annotated Code of Maryland  
18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
20 Article – Transportation  
21 Section 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 Annotated Code of Maryland  
2 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

5 **Article – State Government**

6 9–913.

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

9 (i) veterans and their families; and

10 (ii) public and private programs that support veterans and their  
11 families.

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

13 (g) The Fund consists of:

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

16 (2) contributions to the Fund from:

17 (i) the sale of tickets from instant ticket lottery machines under §  
18 9–112(d) of this title; [and]

19 (ii) the donations from video lottery facility players under §  
20 9–1A–04(d)(19) of this [article] **TITLE; AND**

21 **(III) THE DESIGNATED FEES FROM SPECIAL REGISTRATION**  
22 **PLATES FOR RECIPIENTS OF AN INDIVIDUALLY EARNED, COMBAT–RELATED ARMED**  
23 **FORCES MEDAL UNDER § 13–619.1 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.**

24 **Article – Transportation**

25 13–619.1.

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

- 1 (i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;
- 2 (ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less manufacturer's  
3 rated capacity;
- 4 (iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle; or
- 5 (iv) A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle.

6 (2) To be eligible for a special registration described under subsection  
7 (c)(2)(i) of this section, an applicant shall provide proof that is satisfactory to the  
8 Administration that the applicant is a recipient of an individually earned,  
9 combat-related[,] armed forces medal.

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

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

19 (b) (1) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under this  
20 title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a special registration under this section shall pay a fee  
21 as determined by the Administration each time new registration plates are issued for the  
22 vehicle.

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

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

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

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

32 (3) (I) **THE PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE CHARGED UNDER**  
33 **PARAGRAPH (2)(I) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE**  
34 **ADMINISTRATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECOVERING THE ADMINISTRATION'S**

1 COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION.

2 (II) THE PORTION OF THE ADDITIONAL FEE CHARGED UNDER  
3 PARAGRAPH (2)(II) OF THIS SUBSECTION:

4 1. MAY NOT BE RETAINED BY OR TRANSFERRED TO ANY  
5 AGENCY OF THE STATE FOR ANY PURPOSE; AND

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

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

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

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

14 (2) Shall include:

15 (i) For registration plates issued for an applicant described in  
16 subsection (a)(2) of this section:

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

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

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

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

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

31 (2) The Administration may adopt other regulations as necessary to govern  
32 the issuance of special registration numbers and special registration plates under this

1 section.

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

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
8 1, 2020.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.