

# SENATE BILL 55

R4

(PRE-FILED)

4lr1103  
CF HB 178

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By: **Senator Smith**

Requested: October 23, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Disabled Veteran Registration Plates – Issuance**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue certain special  
4 disabled veteran registration plates to certain disabled veterans; prohibiting the  
5 Administration from charging certain persons the fee required for replacement  
6 registration plates under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the  
7 issuance of special disabled veteran registration plates.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Transportation

10 Section 13–619.4

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

14 Article – Transportation

15 Section 13–903(a)(8)

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 **13–619.4.**

22 **(A) THE OWNER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE, OR A LESSEE OF THE VEHICLE**  
23 **UNDER A LEASE NOT INTENDED AS SECURITY, MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES  
2 UNDER THIS SECTION FOR A VEHICLE INCLUDED IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING  
3 CLASSES:

4 (1) A CLASS A (PASSENGER) VEHICLE;

5 (2) A CLASS E (TRUCK) VEHICLE WITH A 1 TON OR LESS  
6 MANUFACTURER'S RATED CAPACITY;

7 (3) A CLASS M (MULTIPURPOSE) VEHICLE; OR

8 (4) A CLASS D (MOTORCYCLE) VEHICLE.

9 (B) TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION  
10 PLATE UNDER THIS SECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL PROVIDE PROOF THAT IS  
11 SATISFACTORY TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE APPLICANT IS AN ARMED  
12 FORCES VETERAN WHO IS BETWEEN 50% AND 99%, INCLUSIVE,  
13 SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED AS DESIGNATED OR CLASSIFIED BY THE U.S.  
14 DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

15 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ISSUE A SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN  
16 REGISTRATION PLATE THAT DOES NOT DISPLAY THE INTERNATIONAL SYMBOL OF  
17 ACCESS IN RECOGNITION OF THE VEHICLE OWNER'S SERVICE-CONNECTED  
18 DISABILITY TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AN ARMED FORCES VETERAN AND IS  
19 BETWEEN 50% AND 99%, INCLUSIVE, SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED.

20 (D) THE ADMINISTRATION:

21 (1) SHALL CHARGE THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE AND  
22 SURCHARGE OTHERWISE REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE FOR SPECIAL DISABLED  
23 VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER THIS SECTION; AND

24 (2) MAY NOT CHARGE OR RETAIN ANY ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THE  
25 SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES.

26 (E) SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED UNDER  
27 THIS SECTION:

28 (1) MAY CONSIST OF ANY COMBINATION OF LETTERS, NUMERALS, OR  
29 BOTH; AND

30 (2) SHALL STATE "DISABLED VETERAN" ON THE SPECIAL  
31 REGISTRATION PLATES.

1           **(F) (1) IF THE OWNERSHIP OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ASSIGNED SPECIAL**  
2 **DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION IS TRANSFERRED**  
3 **FROM THE DISABLED VETERAN WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION**  
4 **PLATES TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR THE SPECIAL**  
5 **REGISTRATION PLATES:**

6                   **(I) 1. THE TRANSFEROR SHALL RETURN THE SPECIAL**  
7 **REGISTRATION PLATES TO THE ADMINISTRATION; AND**

8                           **2. THE TRANSFEREE SHALL OBTAIN VEHICLE TITLE,**  
9 **REGISTRATION, AND REGISTRATION PLATES AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND**

10                           **(II) IF THE TRANSFEROR AND THE TRANSFEREE WERE JOINT**  
11 **OWNERS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE BEFORE THE TRANSFER, THE ADMINISTRATION**  
12 **MAY NOT CHARGE THE TRANSFEREE THE FEE OTHERWISE REQUIRED FOR THE**  
13 **REPLACEMENT OF REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER § 13-952 OF THIS TITLE.**

14           **(2) IF THE OWNERSHIP OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ASSIGNED SPECIAL**  
15 **DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION IS TRANSFERRED**  
16 **FROM THE DISABLED VETERAN WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE SPECIAL REGISTRATION**  
17 **PLATES TO THE DISABLED VETERAN'S SPOUSE WHO DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR THE**  
18 **SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES:**

19                   **(I) 1. THE TRANSFEROR SHALL RETURN THE SPECIAL**  
20 **REGISTRATION PLATES TO THE ADMINISTRATION; AND**

21                           **2. THE TRANSFEREE SHALL OBTAIN VEHICLE TITLE,**  
22 **REGISTRATION, AND REGISTRATION PLATES AS REQUIRED BY LAW; AND**

23                           **(II) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY NOT CHARGE THE TRANSFEREE**  
24 **THE FEE OTHERWISE REQUIRED FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF REGISTRATION PLATES**  
25 **UNDER § 13-952 OF THIS TITLE.**

26           **(G) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS NECESSARY TO**  
27 **GOVERN THE ISSUANCE OF THE SPECIAL DISABLED VETERAN REGISTRATION**  
28 **PLATES UNDER THIS SECTION.**

29 13-903.

30           **(a)** The following vehicles are exempt from the registration fees specified in this  
31 subtitle:

32                   **(8)** A vehicle owned by, or leased to, and personally used by a veteran who:

33                           **(i)** As designated or classified by the Veterans' Administration, has

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1 lost the use of a hand, arm, or leg, or is totally disabled; or

2 (ii) Has a permanent impairment of both eyes so that:

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

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

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
9 October 1, 2024.