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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

APPROVED AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

Date 5-29-83

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1983



ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 1881

(By Mr. Ashcraft + Mrs. Burke)



Passed March 11, 1983

In Effect July 1, 1983 ~~Passage~~



ENROLLED

H. B. 1881

(By MR. ASHCRAFT and MRS. BURKE)

[Passed March 11, 1983; in effect July 1, 1983.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section fourteen, article three, chapter seventeen-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to original and renewal of registration and issuance of certificates of title; increasing the number of characters for use on license plates to six; and reducing the fees for special registration plates from forty dollars to twenty-five dollars.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section fourteen, article three, chapter seventeen-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. ORIGINAL AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF TITLE.

§17A-3-14. Registration plates generally.

1 The department upon registering a vehicle shall issue to
2 the owner one registration plate for a motorcycle, trailer,
3 semitrailer or other motor vehicle.

4 Every registration plate shall have displayed upon it the
5 registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is
6 issued, also the name of this state, which may be abbreviated,
7 and the year number for which it is issued or the date of ex-
8 piration thereof.

9 Such registration plate and the required letters and numerals
10 thereon, except the year number for which issued or the date
11 of expiration, shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable
12 from a distance of one hundred feet during daylight, said regis-
13 tration numbering to begin with number two.

14 The color of the registration plates shall be blue and gold
15 of reflectorized material.

16 The department shall not issue, permit to be issued, or dis-
17 tribute any special numbers except as follows:

18 (a) The governor shall be issued registration plates, on one
19 of which shall be imprinted the numeral one and on the other
20 the word one.

21 (b) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to
22 the secretary of state, state superintendent of free schools, audi-
23 tor, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and the attorney
24 general, the members of both houses of the Legislature, includ-
25 ing the elected officials thereof, the judges of the supreme court
26 of appeals of West Virginia, the representatives and senators
27 of the state in the Congress of the United States, the judges of
28 the United States district courts for the state of West Virginia
29 and the judges of the United States court of appeals for the
30 fourth circuit, if any of said judges shall be residents of West
31 Virginia, a special registration plate for a motor vehicle owned
32 by said official or spouse, but not to exceed two plates for each
33 such official, which plate shall bear the initials of the individ-
34 ual, or any combination of letters not to exceed six, which com-
35 bination of letters shall be limited to a contraction of the proper
36 name or names of such individual or a familiar form applicable
37 to such names or a name by which the individual is generally
38 known, and shall not include any name that might be construed
39 as a slogan or advertisement which has no relation to the name
40 or names of such individual or to a reasonable name by which
41 generally known, together with a designation of the office and
42 which plate shall supersede, during that term of office and
43 while such motor vehicle is owned by said official or spouse,
44 the regular numbered plate assigned to him.

45 (c) Upon appropriate application, any owner of a motor

46 vehicle subject to Class A registration under the provisions
47 of this article may request that the department issue a
48 registration plate bearing a maximum of six letters or num-
49 bers. The department shall attempt to comply with such request
50 wherever possible and shall promulgate appropriate rules and
51 regulations for the orderly distribution of such plates:
52 *Provided*, That for purposes of this subdivision, such registra-
53 tion plates so requested and issued shall include all plates
54 bearing the numbers two through two thousand and shall be
55 subject to the provisions of subdivision (e) of this section.

56 (d) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to
57 any disabled veteran, who is exempt from the payment of regis-
58 tration fees under the provisions of this chapter, a registration
59 plate which bears the letters "DV" in red, and also the regular
60 identification numerals in red.

61 (e) In addition to the regular registration fees set forth in
62 section three, article ten of this chapter, a fee of twenty-five
63 dollars shall be paid to the department in each case in which
64 an application for a special registration plate is made as pro-
65 vided in subdivisions (a), (b) and (c): *Provided*, That nothing
66 in this section shall be construed to require a charge for a
67 free prisoner of war license plate authorized by other provisions
68 of this code.

69 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or of any
70 other provision of this chapter, the commissioner may, in
71 his discretion, issue a type of registration plate suitable for
72 permanent use on motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers,
73 together with appropriate devices to be attached thereto to
74 indicate the year for which such vehicles have been properly
75 registered or the date of expiration of such registration. The
76 design of such plates shall be determined by the commissioner.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Harold E. Huber
Chairman Senate Committee

Donald Anello
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect July 1, 1983.

Paul C. Welch
Clerk of the Senate

Donald L. Kopp
Clerk of the House of Delegates
Warren R. Whitman
President of the Senate

W. H. Lee, Jr.
Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 29
day of March, 1983.

John I. Palfrey
Governor

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