WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1984

ENROLLED

Com. sub. for
HOUSE BILL No. 1497

(By Mr. Del Bird & Del Childers)

Passed March 10, 1984

In Effect Ninety Days From Passage
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; authorizing special registration plates for national guard members; providing for the issuance of personalized registration plates for motorcycles; and fees.

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,
and the year number for which it is issued or the date of expiration thereof.

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

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

The department shall not issue permit to be issued, or distribute any special numbers except as follows:

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

(b) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to the secretary of state, state superintendent of free schools, auditor, treasurer, commissioner of agriculture, and the attorney general, the members of both houses of the Legislature, including the elected officials thereof, the justices of the supreme court of appeals of West Virginia, the representatives and senators of the state in the Congress of the United States, the judges of the United States district courts for the state of West Virginia and the judges of the United States court of appeals for the fourth circuit, if any of said judges shall be residents of West Virginia, a special registration plate for a motor vehicle owned by said official or spouse, but not to exceed two plates for each such official, which plate shall bear the initials of the individual, or any combination of letters not to exceed six, which combination of letters shall be limited to a contraction of the proper name or names of such individual or a familiar form applicable to such names or a name by which the individual is generally known, and shall not include any name that might be construed as a slogan or advertisement which has no relation to the name or names of such individual or to a reasonable name by which he is generally known, together with a designation of the office and which plate shall supersede, during his term of office and while such motor
vehicle is owned by said official or spouse, the regular
numbered plate assigned to him.

(c) Upon receipt of an application on a form prescribed
by the department and receipt of written evidence from the
chief executive officer of the army national guard or air
national guard, as appropriate, that the applicant is a mem-
ber thereof, the department shall issue to any member of
the national guard of this state a special registration plate
designed by the commissioner for a motor vehicle owned by
the member or the member's spouse, but not to exceed one
plate for each such member.

(d) Upon appropriate application, any owner of a motor
vehicle subject to Class A registration or the owner of a
motorcycle subject to Class G registration under the provisions
of this article may request that the department issue a registra-
tion plate bearing a maximum of six letters or numbers.
The department shall attempt to comply with such request
wherever possible and shall promulgate appropriate rules
and regulations for the orderly distribution of such plates:
Provided, That for purposes of this subdivision, such regis-
tration plates so requested and issued shall include all plates
bearings the numbers two through two thousand and shall
be subject to the provisions of subdivision (f) of this section.

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

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

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

James L. Davis  
Chairman Senate Committee

Donald Anello  
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Jeff C. Miller  
Clerk of the Senate

Donald L. notch  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Wade R. Hughes  
President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 20 day of March, 1984.

John D. Dingell  
Governor