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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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



ENROLLED
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
H. B. 1497
(By DELEGATE BIRD and DELEGATE 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,

7 and the year number for which it is issued or the date of
8 expiration 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
13 registration 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
19 one of which shall be imprinted the numeral one and on the
20 other the word one.

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

45 vehicle is owned by said official or spouse, the regular
46 numbered plate assigned to him.

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

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

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

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

81 Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or of any
82 other provision of this chapter, the commissioner may, in his

83 discretion, issue a type of registration plate suitable for
84 permanent use on motor vehicles, trailers and semitrailers,
85 together with appropriate devices to be attached thereto to
86 indicate the year for which such vehicles have been properly
87 registered or the date of expiration of such registration. The
88 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.

Todd C. Hutton

Clerk of the Senate

Donald L. Dobby

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Walter P. Moore

President of the Senate

W. M. Lee, Jr.

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 30
day of March, 1984.

Paul P. Byrne

Governor

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SECY. OF STATE