WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1990

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ENROLLED
Com. Jnl. for
HOUSE BILL No. 4458

(By Mr. ...)

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Passed .................................................. 1990

In Effect ............................................. Passage

9 March 8, 1990
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 registration plates for motor vehicles; authorizing special registration plates for members of United States Armed Forces Reserve Units, veterans, survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor, certified paramedics, and emergency medical technicians; vehicles of the survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor are exempt from payment of registration fees; special fees to be charged to veterans, certified paramedics, and emergency medical technicians.

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 division upon registering a vehicle shall issue to the owner one registration plate for a motorcycle,
trailer, semitrailer or other motor vehicle.

Every registration plate shall be of reflectorized material and have displayed upon it the registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is 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 division 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 any combination of letters not to exceed an amount determined by the commissioner, and 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 pres-
cried by the division and receipt of written evidence
from the chief executive officer of the army national
guard or air national guard, as appropriate, or the
commanding officer of any United States Armed Forces
Reserve Unit that the applicant is a member thereof, the
division shall issue to any member of the national guard
of this state or a member of any reserve unit of the
United States Armed Forces 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
division issue a registration plate bearing specially
arranged letters or numbers with the maximum
number of letters or numbers to be determined by the
commissioner. The division 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 registration plates so requested
and issued shall include all plates bearing the numbers
two through two thousand and shall be subject to the
provisions of subdivision (k) of this section.

(e) Upon appropriate application, there shall be
issued to any honorably discharged veteran, of any
branch of the armed services of the United States, a
special registration plate with an insignia designed by
the commissioner of the division of motor vehicles. A
special fee of five dollars shall be charged in addition
to all other fees required by law. This special fee is to
compensate the division of motor vehicles for additional
costs and services required in the issuing of such special
registration and shall be collected by the division and
deposited in a special revolving fund to be used for the
administration of this section: Provided, That nothing in
this section shall be construed to exempt said veterans
from any other provision in this chapter.

(f) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued

83 to any disabled veteran, who is exempt from the
84 payment of registration fees under the provisions of this
85 chapter, a registration plate which bears the letters
86 “DV” in red, and also the regular identification
87 numerals in red.
88
89 (g) Upon appropriate application, there shall be
90 issued to any armed service person holding the distin-
91 guished purple heart medal for persons wounded in
92 combat a registration plate bearing letters or numbers.
93 The registration plate designed by the commissioner of
94 motor vehicles shall denote that those individuals who
95 are granted this special registration plate are recipients
96 of the purple heart. All letterings as herein provided
97 shall be in purple where practical. Further, the
98 registration plates herein provided shall be exempt from
99 registration fees under the provisions of this chapter.

100 (h) Upon appropriate application, the owner of a
101 motor vehicle who was enlisted in any branch of the
102 armed services that participated in and survived the
103 attack on Pearl Harbor on the seventh day of December,
104 one thousand nine hundred forty-one, shall be issued a
105 special registration plate designed by the commissioner
106 of motor vehicles and shall be exempt from the payment
107 of registration fees as required under the provisions of
108 this chapter.

109 (i) Subject to rules promulgated by the commissioner,
110 nonprofit charitable and educational organizations shall
111 be authorized to design a logo or emblem for inclusion
112 on a special registration plate and to market this special
113 registration plate to organization members and the
114 general public. Approved nonprofit organizations may
115 accept applications for the special registration plate
116 from the owner of motor vehicles subject to a Class A
117 registration and payment of fees therefor under the
118 provisions of this article and may request that the
119 division issue a registration plate bearing a combination
120 of letters or numbers with the organizations’ logo or
121 emblem, with the maximum number of letters or
122 numbers to be determined by the commissioner:
123 Provided, That such rules, regulations and standards
124 that are promulgated by the commissioner for purpose
of this subdivision shall be promulgated in accordance
with the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.
Nonprofit organizations seeking to market such plates
shall be authorized to collect a fee for successfully
processing a registration plate application and shall
deposit an appropriate fee, which shall be determined
by the commissioner, with the division of motor vehicles
to defray the administrative costs associated with
designing and manufacturing special registration plates
for the organization.

(j) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of
the state of West Virginia, and who is a certified
paramedic or emergency medical technician, a member
of a volunteer fire company, a paid fire department, a
member of the state fire commission, the state fire
marshal, the state fire marshal's assistants, the state fire
administrator and voluntary rescue squad members
upon application, accompanied by an affidavit signed by
the fire chief or department head of the applicant,
listing that the applicant is justified in having a
registration with an insignia designed by the commis-
sioner of the division of motor vehicles to denote those
individuals who are granted special registration plates
under this article, complying with the motor vehicle
laws of the state relative to registration and licensing
of motor vehicles, and upon payment of the registration,
license and other fees required by law, and the payment
of the additional special fee herein provided, shall be
issued a license plate for a private passenger car, upon
which, in lieu of the registration number prescribed by
law, shall be inscribed the insignia designed by the
commissioner of the division of motor vehicles to denote
those individuals who are granted this special registra-
tion insignia in addition to their existing registration
numbers.

The special fee that shall be charged each applicant
for the issuance of a license plate bearing the insignia
designed by the commissioner of the division of motor
vehicles to denote those individuals who are granted this
special registration insignia in addition to their existing
registration number, shall be five dollars, which special
fee shall be in addition to all other fees required by law. This special fee is for the purpose of compensating the division of motor vehicles for additional costs and services required in the issuing of such special registration and shall be collected by the division and deposited in a special revolving fund to be used for the administration of this section.

The commissioner is authorized to prescribe proper forms to be used in making application for the special license plates authorized by this section.

(k) In addition to the regular registration fees set forth in section three, article ten of this chapter, a fee of fifteen dollars shall be paid to the division 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 of reflectorized material 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.

Further, notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter to the contrary, any license plate issued or renewed pursuant to this chapter, which is paid for by a check that is returned for nonsufficient funds, shall be void without further notice to the applicant, and the applicant may not reinstate the registration until the returned check is paid by the applicant in cash, money order or certified check and all applicable fees assessed as a result thereof have been paid.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Frederick Parker  
Chairman Senate Committee

Bernard V. Kelly  
Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect from passage.

Parrell E. Hume  
Clerk of the Senate

Daneel L. Verge  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Nathan Bandettie  
President of the Senate

Edward C. Neale  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 26th day of May, 1960.

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR
Date 3/4/90
Time 4:02 PM