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SENATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

REGULAR SESSION, 1995



**ENROLLED**

*COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR*

SENATE BILL NO. 274

(By Senators SCHOONOVER & LOVE)



PASSED MARCH 11, 1995

In Effect July 1, 1995 **Passage**

**ENROLLED**  
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE  
FOR

**Senate Bill No. 274**

(SENATORS SCHOONOVER AND LOVE, *original sponsors*)

[Passed March 11, 1995; to take effect July 1, 1995.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section twenty-three, article three, chapter seventeen-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to license plates; authorizing issuance of unlimited license plates to drug and violent crime task forces for vehicles involved in undercover work; authorizing issuance of twenty Class A license plates for vehicles used by the criminal investigation division of the department of tax and revenue; and criminal penalties.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That section twenty-three, 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-3-23. Registration plates to state, county, municipal**

**and other governmental vehicles; use for undercover activities.**

1 Any motor vehicle designed to carry passengers, owned  
2 or leased by the state of West Virginia, or any of its  
3 departments, bureaus, commissions or institutions,  
4 except vehicles used by the governor, treasurer, vehicles  
5 operated by the department of public safety, not to  
6 exceed six vehicles operated by conservation officers of  
7 the division of natural resources, not to exceed ten  
8 vehicles operated by the arson investigators of the office  
9 of state fire marshal and not to exceed sixteen vehicles  
10 operated by inspectors of the office of the alcohol  
11 beverage control commissioner, shall not be operated or  
12 driven by any person unless it shall have displayed and  
13 attached to the front thereof, in the same manner as  
14 regular motor vehicle registration plates are attached, a  
15 plate of the same size as the regular registration plate,  
16 with white lettering on a green background bearing the  
17 words "West Virginia" in one line and the words "State  
18 Car" in another line, and the lettering for the words  
19 "State Car" shall be of sufficient size to be plainly  
20 readable from a distance of one hundred feet during  
21 daylight.

22 Such vehicle shall also have attached to the rear a  
23 plate bearing a number and such other words and figures  
24 as the commissioner of motor vehicles shall prescribe.  
25 The rear plate shall also be green with the number in  
26 white.

27 On registration plates issued to vehicles owned by  
28 counties, the color shall be white on red with the word  
29 "County" on top of the plate and the words "West  
30 Virginia" on the bottom. On any registration plates  
31 issued to a city or municipality, the color shall be white  
32 on blue with the word "City" on top, and the words  
33 "West Virginia" on the bottom. The colors may not be  
34 reversed and shall be of reflectorized material. The  
35 registration plates issued to counties, municipalities and

36 other governmental agencies authorized to receive  
37 colored plates hereunder shall be affixed to both the  
38 front and rear of such vehicles.

39 The commissioner is authorized to designate the colors  
40 and design of any other registration plates that are  
41 issued without charge to any other agency in accordance  
42 with the motor vehicle laws.

43 Upon application and payment of fees, the commis-  
44 sioner is authorized to issue a maximum of five Class A  
45 license plates per applicant to be used by county sheriffs  
46 and municipalities on law-enforcement vehicles while  
47 engaged in undercover investigations.

48 The commissioner is authorized to issue an unlimited  
49 number of license plates per applicant to authorized  
50 drug and violent crime task forces in the state of West  
51 Virginia when the chairperson of the control group of a  
52 drug and violent crime task force signs a written affida-  
53 vit stating that the vehicle or vehicles for which the  
54 plates are being requested will be used only for official  
55 undercover work conducted by such drug and violent  
56 crime task force.

57 The commissioner is authorized to issue twenty Class  
58 A license plates to the criminal investigation division of  
59 the department of tax and revenue for use by its investi-  
60 gators.

61 No other registration plate shall be issued for, or  
62 attached to, any such state-owned vehicle.

63 The commissioner of motor vehicles shall have a  
64 sufficient number of both front and rear plates produced  
65 to attach to all state-owned cars. The numbered regis-  
66 tration plates for such vehicles shall start with the  
67 number "five hundred" and the commissioner shall issue  
68 consecutive numbers for all state-owned cars.

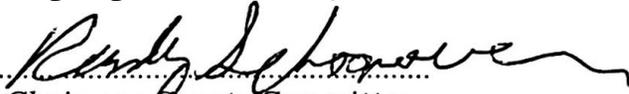
69 It shall be the duty of each office, department, bureau,  
70 commission or institution furnished any such vehicle to

71 have such plates affixed thereto prior to the operation of  
72 such vehicle by any official or employee.

73 Any person who violates the provisions of this section  
74 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction  
75 thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more  
76 than one hundred dollars.

77 Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with  
78 circuit and criminal courts for the enforcement of this  
79 section.

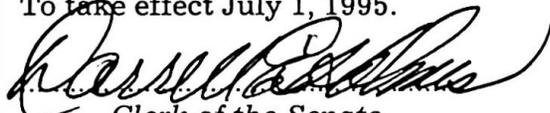
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

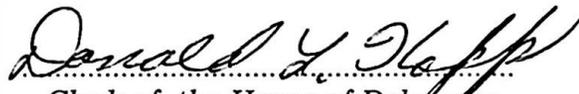
  
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Chairman Senate Committee

  
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Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

To take effect July 1, 1995.

  
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Clerk of the Senate

  
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Clerk of the House of Delegates

  
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President of the Senate

  
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Speaker House of Delegates

The within ..... this the.....  
day of ....., 1995.

.....  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date 3/24/95

Time 4:01 PM