WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1996

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 357

(By Senator Schoonover)

PASSED March 5, 1996

In Effect July 1, 1996
SENATE BILL NO. 357

(BY SENATOR SCHOONOVER)

[Passed March 8, 1996; to take effect July 1, 1996.]

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 individuals and state agencies exempted from using state license plates; and adding three plates per elected office of the board of public works to the exemptions.

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 or leased by the state of West Virginia, or any of its
departments, bureaus, commissions or institutions, except vehicles used by the governor, treasurer, three plates per elected office of the board of public works, vehicles operated by the department of public safety, not to exceed six vehicles operated by conservation officers of the division of natural resources, not to exceed ten vehicles operated by the arson investigators of the office of state fire marshal and not to exceed sixteen vehicles operated by inspectors of the office of the alcohol beverage control commissioner, shall not be operated or driven by any person unless it shall have displayed and attached to the front thereof, in the same manner as regular motor vehicle registration plates are attached, a plate of the same size as the regular registration plate, with white lettering on a green background bearing the words “West Virginia” in one line and the words “State Car” in another line, and the lettering for the words “State Car” shall be of sufficient size to be plainly readable from a distance of one hundred feet during daylight.

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

On registration plates issued to vehicles owned by counties, the color shall be white on red with the word “County” on top of the plate and the words “West Virginia” on the bottom. On any registration plates issued to a city or municipality, the color shall be white on blue with the word “City” on top, and the words “West Virginia” on the bottom. The colors may not be reversed and shall be of reflectorized material. The registration plates issued to counties, municipalities and other governmental agencies authorized to receive colored plates hereunder shall be affixed to both the front and rear of such vehicles.

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

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

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

The commissioner is authorized to issue twenty Class A license plates to the criminal investigation division of the department of tax and revenue for use by its investigators.

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

The commissioner of motor vehicles shall have a sufficient number of both front and rear plates produced to attach to all state-owned cars. The numbered registration plates for such vehicles shall start with the number “five hundred” and the commissioner shall issue consecutive numbers for all state-owned cars.

It shall be the duty of each office, department, bureau, commission or institution furnished any such vehicle to have such plates affixed thereto prior to the operation of such vehicle by any official or employee.

Any person who violates the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more
77 than one hundred dollars.
78 Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with
79 circuit and criminal courts for the enforcement of this
80 section.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.
To take effect July 1, 1996.

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the day of 1996.