WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1997

ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. __2435__

Proudfoot, Boggs, Prunty, Stemple,
Claypole, Border and Evans

Passed ____________ April 12, ____________ 1997

In Effect ____________ Ninety Days From ____________ Passage
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 for conservation officers.

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, 2 owned or leased by the state of West Virginia, or any of its 3 departments, bureaus, commissions or institutions, except 4 vehicles used by the governor, treasurer, three plates per 5 elected office of the board of public works, vehicles oper- 6 ated by the state police, 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, may not be operated or driven by any person unless it has 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.

The vehicle shall also have attached to the rear a plate bearing a number and any 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 the 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 re-
quested will be used only for official undercover work
conducted by a 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 investiga-
tors.

The commissioner may issue a maximum of ten
Class A license plates to the division of natural resources
for use by conservation officers. The commissioner shall
designate the color and design of the registration plates to
be displayed on the front and the rear of all other state-
owned vehicles owned by the division of natural resources
and operated by conservation officers.

No other registration plate may be issued for, or
attached to, any 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 registra-
tion plates for the vehicles shall start with the number
“five hundred” and the commissioner shall issue consec-
tutive numbers for all state-owned cars.

It is the duty of each office, department, bureau,
commission or institution furnished any vehicle to have
plates as described herein affixed thereto prior to the op-
eration of the vehicle by any official or employee.

Any person who violates the provisions of this sec-
tion shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon convic-
tion thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor
more than one hundred dollars.

Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with
circuit and criminal courts for the enforcement of this
section.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 1st day of May, 1997.

Governor