

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4296

FISCAL
NOTE

By Delegate E. Pritt

[Introduced January 10, 2024; Referred
to the Committee on Fire Department and Emergency
Medical Services then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-3-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to
 2 amend and reenact §17A-10-8 of said code; and to amend and reenact §17B-2-1 of said
 3 code; and to amend and reenact and §17C-16-6 of said code; all relating to removing the
 4 fees for license plates; vehicle registration; operator's licenses; and inspection fees for
 5 volunteer fire fighters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 3. ORIGINALS AND RENEWAL REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF
 CERTIFICATE OF TITLES.**

**§17A-3-14. Registration plates generally; description of plates; issuance of special
 numbers and plates; registration fees; special application fees; exemptions;
 commissioner to promulgate forms; suspension and nonrenewal. ~~suspension of
 registration; electronic signatures.~~**

1 (a) The division, upon registering a vehicle, shall issue to the owner one registration plate
 2 with a registration number consisting of a combination of letters, numerals, symbols, or characters
 3 in a configuration determined by the commissioner for a motorcycle, trailer, semitrailer, or other
 4 motor vehicle.

5 (b) Registration plates issued by the division shall meet the following requirements:

6 (1) ~~Plates must incorporate reflectorized material~~ Every registration plate shall be of
 7 reflectorized material and have displayed upon it the registration number assigned to the vehicle
 8 for which it is issued; the name of this state, which may be abbreviated; and the year number for
 9 which it is issued or the date of expiration of the plate.

10 (2) ~~Registration numbers shall be plainly readable from 100 feet during daylight~~ Every
 11 registration plate and the required letters and numerals on the plate shall be of sufficient size to be
 12 plainly readable from 100 feet during daylight: *Provided*, That the requirements of this subdivision
 13 shall not apply to the year number for which the plate is issued or the date of expiration.

14 ~~(3) The commissioner may assign any additional feature to facilitate reciprocal~~
15 ~~agreements, facilitate interstate travel, promote highway safety, or promote the efficient operation~~
16 ~~of the division~~ Registration numbering for registration plates shall begin with the number two.

17 ~~(c) The commissioner may suspend the registration of any owner who displays a damaged~~
18 ~~or illegible plate or otherwise fails to comply with the requirements of §17A-3-19 of this code~~ The
19 division may not issue, permit to be issued, or distribute any special registration plates except as
20 follows:

21 (1) The Governor shall be issued two registration plates, on one of which shall be imprinted
22 the numeral one and on the other the word one.

23 (2) State officials and judges may be issued special registration plates as follows:

24 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to the Secretary of State, State
25 Superintendent of Schools, Auditor, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Attorney
26 General, the members of both houses of the Legislature, including the elected officials of both
27 houses of the Legislature, the justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, the
28 representatives and senators of the state in the Congress of the United States, the judges of the
29 West Virginia circuit courts, active and retired on senior status, the judges of the United States
30 district courts for the State of West Virginia and the judges of the United States Court of Appeals
31 for the fourth circuit, if any of the judges are residents of West Virginia, a special registration plate
32 for a Class A motor vehicle and a special registration plate for a Class G motorcycle owned by the
33 official or his or her spouse: *Provided*, That the division may issue a Class A special registration
34 plate for each vehicle titled to the official and a Class G special registration plate for each
35 motorcycle titled to the official.

36 (B) Each plate issued pursuant to this subdivision shall bear any combination of letters and
37 numbers not to exceed an amount determined by the commissioner and a designation of the
38 office. Each plate shall supersede the regular numbered plate assigned to the official or his or her
39 spouse during the official's term of office and while the motor vehicle is owned by the official or his

40 or her spouse.

41 (C) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for every registration plate issued
42 pursuant to this subdivision, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

43 (3) The division may issue members of the National Guard forces special registration
44 plates as follows:

45 (A) Upon receipt of an application on a form prescribed by the division and receipt of
46 written evidence from the chief executive officer of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard,
47 as appropriate, or the commanding officer of any United States armed forces reserve unit that the
48 applicant is a member thereof, the division shall issue to any member of the National Guard of this
49 state or a member of any reserve unit of the United States armed forces a special registration plate
50 designed by the commissioner for any number of Class A motor vehicles owned by the member.
51 Upon presentation of written evidence of retirement status, retired members of this state's Army or
52 Air National Guard, or retired members of any reserve unit of the United States armed forces, are
53 eligible to purchase the special registration plate issued pursuant to this subdivision.

54 (B) The division shall charge an initial application fee of \$10 for each special registration
55 plate issued pursuant to this subdivision, which is in addition to all other fees required by this
56 chapter. Except as otherwise provided herein, effective July 1, 2007, all fees currently held in the
57 special revolving fund used in the administration of this section and all fees collected by the
58 division shall be deposited in the State Road Fund.

59 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's National Guard
60 forces license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

61 (4) Specially arranged registration plates may be issued as follows:

62 (A) Upon appropriate application, any owner of a motor vehicle subject to Class A
63 registration, or a motorcycle subject to Class G registration, as defined by this article, may request
64 that the division issue a registration plate bearing specially arranged letters or numbers with the
65 maximum number of letters or numbers to be determined by the commissioner. The division shall

66 attempt to comply with the request wherever possible.

67 (B) The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the
68 provisions of §29A-1-1 et seq. of this code regarding the orderly distribution of the plates:
69 Provided, That for purposes of this subdivision, the registration plates requested and issued shall
70 include all plates bearing the numbers two through 2,000.

71 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each special registration plate issued
72 pursuant to this subdivision, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

73 (5) The division may issue honorably discharged veterans special registration plates as
74 follows:

75 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any honorably discharged
76 veteran of any branch of the armed services of the United States a special registration plate for
77 any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant with an insignia designed by the
78 Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

79 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
80 fees required by law. This special fee is to compensate the Division of Motor Vehicles for additional
81 costs and services required in the issuing of the special registration. All fees collected by the
82 division shall be deposited in the State Road Fund: Provided, That nothing in this section may be
83 construed to exempt any veteran from any other provision of this chapter.

84 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's honorably
85 discharged veterans license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the
86 license plate.

87 (6) The division may issue disabled veterans special registration plates as follows:

88 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any disabled veteran who is
89 exempt from the payment of registration fees under the provisions of this chapter a registration
90 plate for a vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant which bears the letters "DV" in red
91 and the regular identification numerals in red.

92 (B) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's disabled
93 veterans license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license
94 plate.

95 (C) A qualified disabled veteran may obtain a second disabled veterans license plate as
96 described in this section for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of the qualified
97 applicant. The division shall charge a one-time fee of \$10 to be deposited into the State Road
98 Fund, in addition to all other fees required by this chapter, for the second plate.

99 (7) The division may issue recipients of the distinguished Purple Heart medal special
100 registration plates as follows:

101 (A) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to any armed service person
102 holding the distinguished Purple Heart medal for persons wounded in combat a registration plate
103 for a vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant bearing letters or numbers. The
104 registration plate shall be designed by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles and
105 shall denote that those individuals who are granted this special registration plate are recipients of
106 the Purple Heart. All letterings shall be in purple where practical.

107 (B) Registration plates issued pursuant to this subdivision are exempt from all registration
108 fees otherwise required by the provisions of this chapter.

109 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's Purple Heart
110 medal license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

111 (D) A recipient of the Purple Heart medal may obtain a second Purple Heart medal license
112 plate as described in this section for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of the qualified
113 applicant. The division shall charge a one-time fee of \$10 to be deposited into the State Road
114 Fund, in addition to all other fees required by this chapter, for the second plate.

115 (8) The division may issue survivors of the attack on Pearl Harbor special registration
116 plates as follows:

117 (A) Upon appropriate application, the owner of a motor vehicle who was enlisted in any

118 branch of the armed services that participated in and survived the attack on Pearl Harbor on
119 December 7, 1941, the division shall issue a special registration plate for a vehicle titled in the
120 name of the qualified applicant. The registration plate shall be designed by the Commissioner of
121 the Division of Motor Vehicles.

122 (B) Registration plates issued pursuant to this subdivision are exempt from the payment of
123 all registration fees otherwise required by the provisions of this chapter.

124 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's survivors of the
125 attack on Pearl Harbor license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew
126 the license plate.

127 (D) A survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor may obtain a second survivors of the attack on
128 Pearl Harbor license plate as described in this section for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the
129 name of the qualified applicant. The division shall charge a one-time fee of \$10 to be deposited
130 into the State Road Fund, in addition to all other fees required by this chapter, for the second plate.

131 (9) The division may issue special registration plates to nonprofit charitable and
132 educational organizations authorized under prior enactment of this subdivision as follows:

133 (A) Approved nonprofit charitable and educational organizations previously authorized
134 under the prior enactment of this subdivision may accept and collect applications for special
135 registration plates from owners of Class A motor vehicles together with a special annual fee of
136 \$15, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. The applications and fees shall
137 be submitted to the Division of Motor Vehicles with the request that the division issue a registration
138 plate bearing a combination of letters or numbers with the organization's logo or emblem, with the
139 maximum number of letters or numbers to be determined by the commissioner.

140 (B) The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the
141 provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code regarding the procedures for and approval of special
142 registration plates issued pursuant to this subdivision.

143 (C) The commissioner shall set an appropriate fee to defray the administrative costs

144 associated with designing and manufacturing special registration plates for a nonprofit charitable
145 or educational organization. The nonprofit charitable or educational organization shall collect this
146 fee and forward it to the division for deposit in the State Road Fund. The nonprofit charitable or
147 educational organization may also collect a fee for marketing the special registration plates.

148 (10) The division may issue specified emergency or volunteer registration plates as
149 follows:

150 (A) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of the State of West Virginia and who is
151 a certified paramedic or emergency medical technician, a member of a paid fire department, a
152 member of a volunteer fire department, a member of the State Fire Commission, the State Fire
153 Marshal, the State Fire Marshal's assistants, the State Fire Administrator, and voluntary rescue
154 squad members may apply for a special license plate for any number of Class A vehicles titled in
155 the name of the qualified applicant which bears the insignia of the profession, group, or
156 commission. Any insignia shall be designed by the commissioner. License plates issued pursuant
157 to this subdivision shall bear the requested insignia in addition to the registration number issued to
158 the applicant pursuant to the provisions of this article.

159 (B) Each application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be accompanied by an
160 affidavit signed by the fire chief or department head of the applicant stating that the applicant is
161 justified in having a registration with the requested insignia, proof of compliance with all laws of this
162 state regarding registration and licensure of motor vehicles, and payment of all required fees.

163 (C) Each application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be accompanied by
164 payment of a special initial application fee of \$10, which is in addition to any other registration or
165 license fee required by this chapter. All special fees shall be collected by the division and
166 deposited into the State Road Fund.

167 (11) The division may issue specified certified firefighter registration plates as follows:

168 (A) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of the State of West Virginia and who is
169 a certified firefighter may apply for a special license plate which bears the insignia of the

170 profession, for any number of Class A vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant. Any
171 insignia shall be designed by the commissioner. License plates issued pursuant to this subdivision
172 shall bear the requested insignia pursuant to the provisions of this article. Upon presentation of
173 written evidence of certification as a certified firefighter, certified firefighters are eligible to
174 purchase the special registration plate issued pursuant to this subdivision.

175 (B) Each application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be accompanied by an
176 affidavit stating that the applicant is justified in having a registration with the requested insignia,
177 proof of compliance with all laws of this state regarding registration and licensure of motor
178 vehicles, and payment of all required fees. The firefighter certification department, section, or
179 division of the West Virginia University fire service extension shall notify the commissioner in
180 writing immediately when a firefighter loses his or her certification. If a firefighter loses his or her
181 certification, the commissioner may not issue him or her a license plate under this subdivision.

182 (C) Each application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be accompanied by
183 payment of a special initial application fee of \$10, which is in addition to any other registration or
184 license fee required by this chapter. All special fees shall be collected by the division and
185 deposited into the State Road Fund.

186 (12) The division may issue special scenic registration plates as follows:

187 (A) Upon appropriate application, the commissioner shall issue a special registration plate
188 displaying a scenic design of West Virginia which displays the words "Wild Wonderful" as a slogan.

189 (B) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 in addition to
190 all other fees required by this chapter. All initial application fees collected by the division shall be
191 deposited into the State Road Fund.

192 (13) The division may issue honorably discharged Marine Corps League members special
193 registration plates as follows:

194 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any honorably discharged
195 Marine Corps League member a special registration plate for any number of vehicles titled in the

196 name of the qualified applicant with an insignia designed by the Commissioner of the Division of
197 Motor Vehicles.

198 (B) The division may charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all
199 other fees required by this chapter. This special fee is to compensate the Division of Motor
200 Vehicles for additional costs and services required in the issuing of the special registration and
201 shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in
202 this section may be construed to exempt any veteran from any other provision of this chapter.

203 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's honorably
204 discharged Marine Corps League license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does
205 not renew the license plate.

206 (14) The division may issue military organization registration plates as follows:

207 (A) The division may issue a special registration plate for the members of any military
208 organization chartered by the United States Congress upon receipt of a guarantee from the
209 organization of a minimum of 100 applicants. The insignia on the plate shall be designed by the
210 commissioner.

211 (B) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue members of the chartered
212 organization in good standing, as determined by the governing body of the chartered organization,
213 a special registration plate for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant.

214 (C) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 for each
215 special license plate in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All initial application fees
216 collected by the division shall be deposited into the State Road Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in
217 this section may be construed to exempt any veteran from any other provision of this chapter.

218 (D) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's military
219 organization registration plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the
220 special military organization registration plate.

221 (15) The division may issue special nongame wildlife registration plates and special wildlife

222 registration plates as follows:

223 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate
224 displaying a species of West Virginia wildlife which shall display a species of wildlife native to West
225 Virginia as prescribed and designated by the commissioner and the Director of the Division of
226 Natural Resources.

227 (B) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for each special nongame wildlife
228 registration plate and each special wildlife registration plate in addition to all other fees required by
229 this chapter. All annual fees collected for nongame wildlife registration plates and wildlife
230 registration plates shall be deposited in a special revenue account designated the Nongame
231 Wildlife Fund and credited to the Division of Natural Resources.

232 (C) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 in addition to
233 all other fees required by this chapter. All initial application fees collected by the division shall be
234 deposited in the State Road Fund.

235 (16) The division may issue members of the Silver Haired Legislature special registration
236 plates as follows:

237 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any person who is a duly
238 qualified member of the Silver Haired Legislature a specialized registration plate which bears
239 recognition of the applicant as a member of the Silver Haired Legislature.

240 (B) A qualified member of the Silver Haired Legislature may obtain one registration plate
241 described in this subdivision for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of the qualified
242 applicant. The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15, in addition to all other fees required by
243 this chapter, for the plate. All annual fees collected by the division shall be deposited in the State
244 Road Fund.

245 (17) Upon appropriate application, the commissioner shall issue to a classic motor vehicle
246 or classic motorcycle, as defined in §17A-10-3a of this code, a special registration plate designed
247 by the commissioner. An annual fee of \$15, in addition to all other fees required by this chapter,

248 shall be charged for each classic registration plate.

249 (18) Honorably discharged veterans may be issued special registration plates for
250 motorcycles subject to Class G registration as follows:

251 (A) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to any honorably discharged
252 veteran of any branch of the armed services of the United States a special registration plate for
253 any number of motorcycles subject to Class G registration titled in the name of the qualified
254 applicant with an insignia designed by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

255 (B) A special initial application fee of \$10 shall be charged in addition to all other fees
256 required by law. This special fee is to be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road
257 Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in this section may be construed to exempt any veteran from any
258 other provision of this chapter.

259 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's honorably
260 discharged veterans license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the
261 license plate.

262 (19) Racing theme special registration plates:

263 (A) The division may issue a series of special registration plates displaying National
264 Association for Stock Car Auto Racing themes.

265 (B) An annual fee of \$25 shall be charged for each special racing theme registration plate
266 in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All annual fees collected for each special
267 racing theme registration plate shall be deposited into the State Road Fund.

268 (C) A special application fee of \$10 shall be charged at the time of initial application as well
269 as upon application for any duplicate or replacement registration plate, in addition to all other fees
270 required by this chapter. All application fees shall be deposited into the State Road Fund.

271 (20) The division may issue recipients of the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross,
272 Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Bronze Star, Silver Star, or Air Medal special
273 registration plates as follows:

274 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any recipient of the Navy
275 Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star,
276 Bronze Star, or Air Medal, a registration plate for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the
277 qualified applicant bearing letters or numbers. A separate registration plate shall be designed by
278 the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for each award that denotes that those
279 individuals who are granted this special registration plate are recipients of the Navy Cross,
280 Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Bronze
281 Star, or Air Medal as applicable.

282 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
283 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
284 Road Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in this section exempts the applicant for a special registration
285 plate under this subdivision from any other provision of this chapter.

286 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's Navy Cross,
287 Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Bronze
288 Star, or Air Medal special registration plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not
289 renew the special registration plate.

290 (21) The division may issue honorably discharged veterans special registration plates as
291 follows:

292 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any honorably discharged
293 veteran of any branch of the armed services of the United States with verifiable service during
294 World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, or the War Against
295 Terrorism a special registration plate for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
296 applicant with an insignia designed by the commissioner denoting service in the applicable
297 conflict.

298 (B) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 in addition to
299 all other fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in

300 the State Road Fund: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this section may be construed to
301 exempt any veteran from any other provision of this chapter.

302 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's honorably
303 discharged veterans' registration plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not
304 renew the special registration plate.

305 (22) The division may issue special volunteer firefighter registration plates as follows:

306 (A) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of West Virginia and who is a volunteer
307 firefighter may apply for a special license plate for any Class A vehicle titled in the name of the
308 qualified applicant which bears the insignia of the profession in white letters on a red background.
309 The insignia shall be designed by the commissioner and shall contain a fireman's helmet insignia
310 on the left side of the license plate.

311 (B) Each application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be accompanied by an
312 affidavit signed by the applicant's fire chief, stating that the applicant is a volunteer firefighter and
313 justified in having a registration plate with the requested insignia. The applicant must comply with
314 all other laws of this state regarding registration and licensure of motor vehicles and must pay all
315 required fees.

316 (C) Each application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be accompanied by
317 payment of a special one-time initial application fee of \$10, which is in addition to any other
318 registration or license fee required by this chapter. All application fees shall be deposited into the
319 State Road Fund.

320 (23) The division may issue special registration plates which reflect patriotic themes,
321 including the display of any United States symbol, icon, phrase, or expression which evokes
322 patriotic pride or recognition. The division shall also issue registration plates with the words "In
323 God We Trust":

324 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to an applicant a registration plate
325 of the applicant's choice, displaying a patriotic theme as provided in this subdivision, for a vehicle

326 titled in the name of the applicant. A series of registration plates displaying patriotic themes shall
327 be designed by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for distribution to applicants.

328 (B) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 in addition to
329 all other fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in
330 the State Road Fund.

331 (C) The provisions of §17A-3-14(d) of this code are not applicable for the issuance of the
332 license plates designated by this subdivision.

333 (24) Special license plates bearing the American flag and the logo "9/11/01":

334 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue special registration plates which
335 shall display the American flag and the logo "9/11/01".

336 (B) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
337 required by this chapter.

338 (C) A special application fee of \$10 shall be charged at the time of initial application as well
339 as upon application for any duplicate or replacement registration plate, in addition to all other fees
340 required by this chapter. All application fees shall be deposited into the State Road Fund.

341 (25) The division may issue a special registration plate celebrating the centennial of the 4-
342 H youth development movement and honoring the Future Farmers of America organization as
343 follows:

344 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
345 depicting the symbol of the 4-H organization which represents the head, heart, hands, and health,
346 as well as the symbol of the Future Farmers of America organization which represents a cross
347 section of an ear of corn for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant.

348 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
349 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
350 Road Fund.

351 (C) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for each special 4-H Future Farmers of

352 America registration plate in addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

353 (26) The division may issue special registration plates to educators in the state's
354 elementary and secondary schools and in the state's institutions of higher education as follows:

355 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
356 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
357 applicant.

358 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
359 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
360 Road Fund.

361 (C) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for each special educator registration
362 plate in addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

363 (27) The division may issue special registration plates to members of the Nemesis Shrine
364 as follows:

365 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
366 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
367 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership
368 in Nemesis Shrine.

369 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
370 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
371 Road Fund.

372 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
373 required by this chapter.

374 (D) Notwithstanding the provisions of §17A-3-14(d) of this code, the time period for the
375 Nemesis Shrine to comply with the minimum 100 prepaid applications is hereby extended to
376 January 15, 2005.

377 (28) The division may issue volunteers and employees of the American Red Cross special

378 registration plates as follows:

379 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any person who is a duly
380 qualified volunteer or employee of the American Red Cross a specialized registration plate which
381 bears recognition of the applicant as a volunteer or employee of the American Red Cross for any
382 number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant.

383 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
384 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
385 Road Fund.

386 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
387 required by this chapter.

388 (29) The division shall issue special registration plates to individuals who have received
389 the U.S. Army Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat Action Badge, or Combat Medical Badge; the
390 U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, or U.S. Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon; or the U.S. Air Force
391 Combat Action Medal as follows:

392 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate
393 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
394 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof that they have
395 received the U.S. Army Combat Infantryman Badge, Combat Action Badge, or Combat Medical
396 Badge; the U.S. Marine Corps, U.S. Navy, or U.S. Coast Guard Combat Action Ribbon; or the U.S.
397 Air Force Combat Action Medal.

398 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
399 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
400 Road Fund.

401 (30) The division may issue special registration plates to members of the Knights of
402 Columbus as follows:

403 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate

404 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
405 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership
406 in the Knights of Columbus.

407 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
408 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
409 Road Fund.

410 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
411 required by this chapter.

412 (D) Notwithstanding the provisions of §17A-3-14(d) of this code, the time period for the
413 Knights of Columbus to comply with the minimum 100 prepaid applications is hereby extended to
414 January 15, 2007.

415 (31) The division may issue special registration plates to former members of the
416 Legislature as follows:

417 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate
418 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
419 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of former
420 service as an elected or appointed member of the West Virginia House of Delegates or the West
421 Virginia Senate.

422 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
423 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
424 Road Fund. The design of the plate shall indicate total years of service in the Legislature.

425 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
426 required by this chapter.

427 (32) Democratic state or county executive committee member special registration plates:

428 (A) The division shall design and issue special registration plates for use by democratic
429 state or county executive committee members. The design of the plates shall include an insignia of

430 a donkey and shall differentiate by wording on the plate between state and county executive
431 committee members.

432 (B) An annual fee of \$25 shall be charged for each democratic state or county executive
433 committee member registration plate in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All
434 annual fees collected for each special plate issued under this subdivision shall be deposited into
435 the State Road Fund.

436 (C) A special application fee of \$10 shall be charged at the time of initial application as well
437 as upon application for any duplicate or replacement registration plate, in addition to all other fees
438 required by this chapter. All application fees shall be deposited into the State Road Fund.

439 (D) The division shall not begin production of a plate authorized under the provisions of this
440 subdivision until the division receives at least 100 completed applications from the state or county
441 executive committee members, including all fees required pursuant to this subdivision.

442 (E) Notwithstanding the provisions of §17A-3-14(d) of this code, the time period for the
443 democratic executive committee to comply with the minimum 100 prepaid applications is hereby
444 extended to January 15, 2005.

445 (33) The division may issue honorably discharged female veterans' special registration
446 plates as follows:

447 (A) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to any female honorably
448 discharged veteran, of any branch of the armed services of the United States, a special
449 registration plate for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant with an
450 insignia designed by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to designate the recipient
451 as a woman veteran.

452 (B) A special initial application fee of \$10 shall be charged in addition to all other fees
453 required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road
454 Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in this section may be construed to exempt any veteran from any
455 other provision of this chapter.

456 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his deceased spouse's honorably discharged
457 veterans license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license
458 plate.

459 (34) The division may issue special registration plates bearing the logo, symbol, insignia,
460 letters, or words demonstrating association with West Liberty State College to any resident owner
461 of a motor vehicle. Resident owners may apply for the special license plate for any number of
462 Class A vehicles titled in the name of the applicant. The special registration plates shall be
463 designed by the commissioner. Each application submitted pursuant to this subdivision shall be
464 accompanied by payment of a special initial application fee of \$15, which is in addition to any other
465 registration or license fee required by this chapter. The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15
466 for each special registration plate in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All special
467 fees shall be collected by the division and deposited into the State Road Fund.

468 (35) The division may issue special registration plates to members of the Harley Owners
469 Group as follows:

470 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
471 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
472 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership
473 in the Harley Owners Group.

474 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
475 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
476 Road Fund.

477 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
478 required by this chapter.

479 (36) The division may issue special registration plates for persons retired from any branch
480 of the armed services of the United States as follows:

481 (A) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to any person who has retired after

482 service in any branch of the armed services of the United States, a special registration plate for
483 any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant with an insignia designed by the
484 Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to designate the recipient as retired from the
485 armed services of the United States.

486 (B) A special initial application fee of \$10 shall be charged in addition to all other fees
487 required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road
488 Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in this section may be construed to exempt any registrants from any
489 other provision of this chapter.

490 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's retired military
491 license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

492 (37) The division may issue special registration plates bearing the logo, symbol, insignia,
493 letters, or words demonstrating association with or support for Fairmont State University as
494 follows:

495 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
496 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
497 applicant.

498 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
499 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
500 Road Fund.

501 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
502 required by this chapter.

503 (38) The division may issue special registration plates honoring the farmers of West
504 Virginia, and the division may issue special beekeeper pollinator registration plates as follows:

505 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate
506 depicting a farming scene or other apt reference to farming, whether in pictures or words, at the
507 discretion of the commissioner. Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special

508 registration plate displaying a pollinator species or advocating its protection as prescribed and
509 designated by the commissioner.

510 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 for each plate in addition
511 to all other fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in
512 the State Road Fund.

513 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
514 required by this chapter.

515 (39) The division shall issue special registration plates promoting education as follows:

516 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate
517 displaying a children's education-related theme as prescribed and designated by the
518 commissioner and the State Superintendent of Schools.

519 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
520 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
521 Road Fund.

522 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
523 required by this chapter.

524 (40) The division may issue members of the 82nd Airborne Division Association special
525 registration plates as follows:

526 (A) The division may issue a special registration plate for members of the 82nd Airborne
527 Division Association upon receipt of a guarantee from the organization of a minimum of 100
528 applicants. The insignia on the plate shall be designed by the commissioner.

529 (B) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue members of the 82nd Airborne
530 Division Association in good standing, as determined by the governing body of the organization, a
531 special registration plate for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant.

532 (C) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 for each
533 special license plate in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All initial application fees

534 collected by the division shall be deposited into the State Road Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in
535 this section may be construed to exempt the applicant from any other provision of this chapter.

536 (D) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's special 82nd
537 Airborne Division Association registration plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does
538 not renew the special registration plate.

539 (41) The division may issue special registration plates to applicants supporting law-
540 enforcement officers, to retired members of the West Virginia State Police, and to survivors of
541 wounds received in the line of duty as a member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency as
542 follows:

543 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate
544 designed by the commissioner which recognizes, supports, and honors the men and women of
545 law-enforcement and includes the words "Back the Blue". Upon appropriate application, the
546 division shall issue to any member of a municipal police department, sheriff's department, the
547 State Police, or the law-enforcement division of the Division of Natural Resources who has been
548 wounded in the line of duty and awarded a Purple Heart in recognition thereof by the West Virginia
549 Chiefs of Police Association, the West Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the West Virginia Troopers
550 Association, or the Division of Natural Resources a special registration plate for one vehicle titled
551 in the name of the qualified applicant with an insignia appropriately designed by the commissioner.

552 (B) For special registration plates supporting law-enforcement officers, the division shall
553 charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other fees required by law. This
554 special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road Fund. An annual fee
555 of \$15 shall be charged for each plate supporting law-enforcement officers in addition to all other
556 fees required by this chapter.

557 (C) Registration plates issued pursuant to this subdivision to survivors of wounds received
558 in the line of duty as a member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency are exempt from the
559 registration fees otherwise required by the provisions of this chapter. A surviving spouse may

560 continue to use his or her deceased spouse's special registration plate until the surviving spouse
561 dies, remarries, or does not renew the plate. Survivors of wounds received in the line of duty as a
562 member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency may obtain a license plate as described in
563 this subdivision for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant. The
564 division shall charge a one-time fee of \$10 to be deposited into the State Road Fund, in addition to
565 all other fees required by this chapter, for the second plate.

566 (D) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue special registration plates
567 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
568 applicant who offers sufficient proof of being a retired member of the West Virginia State Police.
569 The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other fees required
570 by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road Fund.

571 (42) The division may issue a special registration plate for persons who are Native-
572 Americans and residents of this state:

573 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to an applicant who is a Native-
574 American resident of West Virginia a registration plate for a vehicle titled in the name of the
575 applicant with an insignia designed by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to
576 designate the recipient as a Native-American.

577 (B) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 in addition to
578 all other fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in
579 the State Road Fund.

580 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
581 required by this chapter.

582 (43) The division may issue special registration plates commemorating the centennial
583 anniversary of the creation of Davis and Elkins College as follows:

584 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
585 designed by the commissioner to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Davis and Elkins

586 College for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the applicant.

587 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10. This special fee shall be
588 collected by the division and deposited in the State Road Fund.

589 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
590 required by this chapter.

591 (44) The division may issue special registration plates recognizing and honoring breast
592 cancer survivors. The division may also issue special registration plates to support a cure for
593 childhood cancer:

594 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
595 designed by the commissioner to recognize and honor breast cancer survivors, such plate to
596 incorporate somewhere in the design the "pink ribbon emblem", for any number of vehicles titled in
597 the name of the applicant. Upon appropriate application, the division may also issue a special
598 registration plate designed by the commissioner to support a cure for childhood cancer, such plate
599 to incorporate somewhere in the design the gold ribbon emblem with "WV Kids Cancer Crusaders"
600 below or next to the emblem and "Cure Childhood Cancer" at the bottom of the plate, for any
601 number of vehicles titled in the name of the applicant.

602 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10. This special fee shall
603 be deposited in the State Road Fund.

604 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
605 required by this chapter.

606 (45) The division may issue special registration plates to members of the Knights of
607 Pythias or Pythian Sisters as follows:

608 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
609 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
610 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership
611 in the Knights of Pythias or Pythian Sisters.

612 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
613 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
614 Road Fund.

615 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
616 required by this chapter.

617 (46) The commissioner may issue special registration plates for whitewater rafting
618 enthusiasts as follows:

619 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
620 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
621 applicant.

622 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
623 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
624 Road Fund.

625 (C) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for each special registration plate in
626 addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

627 (47) The division may issue special registration plates to members of Lions International as
628 follows:

629 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
630 designed by the commissioner in consultation with Lions International for any number of vehicles
631 titled in the name of the qualified applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall
632 offer sufficient proof of membership in Lions International.

633 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
634 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
635 Road Fund.

636 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
637 required by this chapter.

638 (48) The division may issue special registration plates supporting organ donation and
639 adoption as follows:

640 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
641 designed by the commissioner which recognizes, supports, and honors organ and tissue donors
642 and includes the words "Donate Life", and the division may issue a special registration plate
643 designed by the commissioner which supports and encourages adoption and includes the words
644 "Choose Life".

645 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
646 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
647 Road Fund.

648 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
649 required by this chapter.

650 (49) The division may issue special registration plates to members of the West Virginia Bar
651 Association as follows:

652 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
653 designed by the commissioner in consultation with the West Virginia Bar Association for any
654 number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant. Persons desiring the special
655 registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership in the West Virginia Bar Association.

656 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
657 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
658 Road Fund.

659 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
660 required by this chapter.

661 (50) The division may issue special registration plates bearing an appropriate logo,
662 symbol, or insignia combined with the words "SHARE THE ROAD" designed to promote bicycling
663 in the state as follows:

664 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
665 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the applicant.

666 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
667 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
668 Road Fund.

669 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
670 required by this chapter.

671 (51) The division may issue special registration plates honoring coal miners and the coal
672 industry, as well as other professions, as set forth in this subdivision as follows:

673 (A)(i) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate
674 depicting and displaying coal miners in mining activities as prescribed and designated by the
675 commissioner and the board of the National Coal Heritage Area Authority.

676 (ii) The division may issue registration plates with the words "Friends of Coal".

677 (iii) The division may issue special registration plates recognizing the occupation of
678 linemen, showing appreciation for workers who construct and maintain utility lines, and depicting a
679 scene or other apt reference to the occupation of linemen, whether in words or pictures, at the
680 discretion of the commissioner.

681 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
682 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
683 Road Fund.

684 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
685 required by this chapter.

686 (D) The provisions of §17A-3-14(d) of this code are not applicable for the issuance of
687 license plates designated by this subdivision.

688 (52) The division may issue special registration plates to present and former Boy Scouts,
689 and to present and former members of the Civil Air Patrol as follows:

690 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
691 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
692 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of present or
693 past membership in the Boy Scouts as either a member or a leader, or in the Civil Air Patrol, as
694 applicable. The special registration plates for the Civil Air Patrol shall be designed by the
695 commissioner in cooperation with the Civil Air Patrol.

696 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
697 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
698 Road Fund.

699 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
700 required by this chapter.

701 (53) The division may issue special registration plates to present and former Boy Scouts
702 who have achieved Eagle Scout status as follows:

703 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
704 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
705 applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of achievement
706 of Eagle Scout status.

707 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
708 fees required by law. This special fee shall be deposited in the State Road Fund.

709 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
710 required by this chapter.

711 (54) The division may issue special registration plates recognizing and memorializing
712 victims of domestic violence:

713 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
714 designed by the commissioner to recognize and memorialize victims of domestic violence, such
715 plate to incorporate somewhere in the design the "purple ribbon emblem", for any number of

716 vehicles titled in the name of the applicant.

717 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10. This special fee shall be
718 deposited in the State Road Fund.

719 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
720 required by this chapter.

721 (55) The division may issue special registration plates bearing the logo, symbol, insignia,
722 letters, or words demonstrating association with, or support for, the University of Charleston as
723 follows:

724 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
725 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
726 applicant.

727 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
728 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
729 Road Fund.

730 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees
731 required by this chapter.

732 (56) The division may issue special registration plates to members of the Sons of the
733 American Revolution as follows:

734 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
735 designed by the commissioner in consultation with the Sons of the American Revolution for any
736 number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant. Persons desiring the special
737 registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership in the Sons of the American Revolution.

738 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
739 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
740 Road Fund.

741 (C) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees

742 required by this chapter.

743 (57) The commissioner may issue special registration plates for horse enthusiasts as
744 follows:

745 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
746 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
747 applicant.

748 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
749 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
750 Road Fund.

751 (C) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for each special registration plate in
752 addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

753 (58) The commissioner may issue special registration plates to the next of kin of a member
754 of any branch of the armed services of the United States killed in combat as follows:

755 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate for any
756 number of vehicles titled in the name of a qualified applicant depicting the Gold Star awarded by
757 the United States Department of Defense as prescribed and designated by the commissioner.

758 (B) The next of kin shall provide sufficient proof of receiving a Gold Star lapel button from
759 the United States Department of Defense in accordance with Public Law 534, 89th Congress, and
760 criteria established by the United States Department of Defense, including criteria to determine
761 next of kin.

762 (C) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
763 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
764 Road Fund.

765 (D) The provisions of §17A-3-14(d) of this code are not applicable for the issuance of
766 special license plates designated by this subdivision.

767 (59) The commissioner may issue special registration plates for retired or former justices of

768 the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia as follows:

769 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
770 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified
771 applicant.

772 (B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other
773 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State
774 Road Fund.

775 (C) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for each special registration plate in
776 addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

777 (D) The provisions of §17A-3-14(d) of this code are not applicable for the issuance of
778 special license plates designated by this subdivision.

779 (60) Upon approval by the commissioner of an appropriate application, and upon all
780 requirements of this subdivision being satisfied, the division may issue special registration plates
781 for Class A and Class G motor vehicles to members of an organization for which a special
782 registration plate has not been issued pursuant to any other subdivision in this subsection prior to
783 January 1, 2010, in accordance with the provisions of this subdivision:

784 (A) An organization desiring to create a special registration plate must comply with the
785 following requirements to be eligible to apply for the creation and issuance of a special registration
786 plate:

787 (i) The organization must be a nonprofit organization organized and existing under Section
788 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the Internal Revenue Code and based, headquartered, or have a chapter in
789 West Virginia;

790 (ii) The organization may be organized for, but may not be restricted to, social, civic, higher
791 education, or entertainment purposes;

792 (iii) The organization may not be a political party and may not have been created or exist
793 primarily to promote a specific political or social belief, as determined by the commissioner in his or

794 her sole discretion;

795 (iv) The organization may not have as its primary purpose the promotion of any specific
796 faith, religion, religious belief, or antireligion;

797 (v) The name of the organization may not be the name of a special product or brand name,
798 and may not be construed, as determined by the commissioner, as promoting a product or brand
799 name; and

800 (vi) The organization's lettering, logo, image, or message to be placed on the registration
801 plate, if created, may not be obscene, offensive, or objectionable as determined by the
802 commissioner in his or her sole discretion.

803 (B) Beginning July 1, 2010, an organization requesting the creation and issuance of a
804 special registration plate may make application with the division. The application shall include
805 sufficient information, as determined by the commissioner, to determine whether the special
806 registration plate requested, and the organization making the application, meet all the
807 requirements set forth in this subdivision. The application shall also include a proposed design,
808 including lettering, logo, image, or message to be placed on the registration plate. The
809 commissioner shall notify the organization of the commissioner's approval or disapproval of the
810 application.

811 (C)(i) The commissioner may not begin the design or production of any license plates
812 authorized and approved pursuant to this subdivision until the organization which applied for the
813 special registration plate has collected and submitted collectively to the division applications
814 completed by at least 250 persons and collectively deposited with the division all fees necessary to
815 cover the first year's basic registration, one-time design and manufacturing costs, and to cover the
816 first year additional annual fee for all of the applications submitted.

817 (ii) If the organization fails to submit the required number of applications and fees within six
818 months of the effective date of the approval of the application for the plate by the commissioner,
819 the plate will not be produced until a new application is submitted and is approved by the

820 commissioner: *Provided*, That an organization that is unsuccessful in obtaining the minimum
821 number of applications may not make a new application for a special plate until at least two years
822 have passed since the approval of the previous application of the organization.

823 (D) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$25 for each special license
824 plate in addition to all other fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division
825 and deposited in the State Road Fund.

826 (E) The division shall charge an annual fee of \$15 for each special registration plate in
827 addition to all other fees required by this chapter.

828 (F) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate
829 designed by the commissioner in consultation with the organization for any number of vehicles
830 titled in the name of a qualified registration plate applicant. Persons desiring the special
831 registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership in the organization.

832 (G) The commissioner shall discontinue the issuance or renewal of the registration of any
833 special plate issued pursuant to this subdivision if:

834 (i) The number of valid registrations for the specialty plate falls below 250 plates for at least
835 12 consecutive months; or

836 (ii) The organization no longer exists or no longer meets the requirements of this
837 subdivision.

838 ~~(d) Any license plate issued or renewed pursuant to this chapter which is paid for by a~~
839 ~~check that is returned for nonsufficient funds is void without further notice to the applicant. The~~
840 ~~applicant may not reinstate the registration until the returned check is paid by the applicant in cash,~~
841 ~~money order, or certified check and all applicable fees assessed as a result thereof have been~~
842 ~~paid. The minimum number of applications required prior to design and production of a special~~
843 ~~license plate shall be as follows:~~

844 (1) The commissioner may not begin the design or production of any license plates for
845 which eligibility is based on membership or affiliation with a particular private organization until at

846 least 100 persons complete an application and deposit with the organization a check to cover the
847 first year's basic registration, one-time design and manufacturing costs, and to cover the first-year
848 additional annual fee. If the organization fails to submit the required number of applications with
849 attached checks within six months of the effective date of the original authorizing legislation, the
850 plate will not be produced and will require legislative reauthorization: *Provided*, That an
851 organization or group that is unsuccessful in obtaining the minimum number of applications may
852 not request reconsideration of a special plate until at least two years have passed since the
853 effective date of the original authorization: *Provided, however*, That the provisions of this
854 subdivision are not applicable to the issuance of plates authorized pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(60) of
855 this code.

856 (2) The commissioner may not begin the design or production of any license plates
857 authorized by this section for which membership or affiliation with a particular organization is not
858 required until at least 250 registrants complete an application and deposit a fee with the division to
859 cover the first year's basic registration fee, one-time design and manufacturing fee, and additional
860 annual fee, if applicable. If the commissioner fails to receive the required number of applications
861 within six months of the effective date of the original authorizing legislation, the plate will not be
862 produced and will require legislative reauthorization: *Provided*, That if the minimum number of
863 applications is not satisfied within the six months of the effective date of the original authorizing
864 legislation, a person may not request reconsideration of a special plate until at least two years
865 have passed since the effective date of the original authorization.

866 (e) ~~In furtherance of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, §39A-1-1 et seq. of this code,~~
867 ~~the division may accept or authorize an electronic signature in any instance the law required to be~~
868 ~~enforced by the commissioner requires a signature or a pen and ink signature. (1) Nothing in this~~
869 ~~section requires a charge for a free prisoner of war license plate or a free recipient of the~~
870 ~~Congressional Medal of Honor license plate for a vehicle titled in the name of the qualified~~
871 ~~applicant as authorized by other provisions of this code.~~

872 (2) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's prisoner of war
873 license plate or Congressional Medal of Honor license plate until the surviving spouse dies,
874 remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

875 (3) Qualified former prisoners of war and recipients of the Congressional Medal of Honor
876 may obtain a second special registration plate for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of
877 the qualified applicant. The division shall charge a one-time fee of \$10 to be deposited into the
878 State Road Fund, in addition to all other fees required by this chapter, for the second special plate.

879 (f) The division may issue special 10-year registration plates as follows:

880 (1) The commissioner may issue or renew for a period of no more than 10 years any
881 registration plate exempted from registration fees pursuant to any provision of this code or any
882 restricted use antique motor vehicle license plate authorized by §17A-10-3a of this code:
883 Provided, That the provisions of this subsection do not apply to any person who has had a special
884 registration suspended for failure to maintain motor vehicle liability insurance as required by §17D-
885 2A-3 of this code or failure to pay personal property taxes as required by §17A-3-3a of this code.

886 (2) An initial nonrefundable fee shall be charged for each special registration plate issued
887 pursuant to this subsection, which is the total amount of fees required by §17A-3-3, §17A-10-3a, or
888 §17A-10-15 of this code for the period requested.

889 (g) The provisions of this section may not be construed to exempt any registrant from
890 maintaining motor vehicle liability insurance as required by §17D-2A-3 of this code or from paying
891 personal property taxes on any motor vehicle as required by §17A-3-3a of this code.

892 (h) The commissioner may, in his or her discretion, issue a registration plate of
893 reflectorized material suitable for permanent use on motor vehicles, trailers, and semitrailers,
894 together with appropriate devices to be attached to the registration to indicate the year for which
895 the vehicles have been properly registered or the date of expiration of the registration. The design
896 and expiration of the plates shall be determined by the commissioner. The commissioner shall,
897 whenever possible and cost effective, implement the latest technology in the design, production,

898 and issuance of registration plates, indices of registration renewal and vehicle ownership
899 documents, including, but not limited to, offering Internet renewal of vehicle registration and the
900 use of bar codes for instant identification of vehicles by scanning equipment to promote the
901 efficient and effective coordination and communication of data for improving highway safety,
902 aiding law enforcement, and enhancing revenue collection.

903 (i) Any license plate issued or renewed pursuant to this chapter which is paid for by a check
904 that is returned for nonsufficient funds is void without further notice to the applicant. The applicant
905 may not reinstate the registration until the returned check is paid by the applicant in cash, money
906 order, or certified check and all applicable fees assessed as a result thereof have been paid.

907 (j) The division shall, upon request of a qualifying applicant, exempt one nonexempt
908 military special registration plate per qualifying applicant from all registration fees. For purposes of
909 this subsection:

910 (1) "Exempt military special registration plate" means a special registration plate related to
911 military service that is issued pursuant to this section for which registration fees are exempt
912 pursuant to this section or §17A-10-8 of this code, including, but not limited to, a special
913 registration plate issued to one of the following:

914 (A) A disabled veteran pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(6), §17A-10-8(4), or §17A-10-8(5) of this
915 code;

916 (B) A recipient of the Purple Heart medal pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(7) of this code;

917 (C) A survivor of the attack on Pearl Harbor pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(8) of this code;

918 (D) A former prisoner of war pursuant to §17A-10-8(6) of this code; or

919 (E) A recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor pursuant to §17A-10-8(7) of this code.

920 (2) "Nonexempt military special registration plate" means a special registration plate
921 related to military service that is issued pursuant to this section for which registration fees are not
922 exempt pursuant to this section or §17A-10-8 of this code, including, but not limited to, special
923 registration plate issued to one of the following:

924 (A) A member of the National Guard forces pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(3) of this code;

925 (B) An honorably discharged veteran pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(5) or §17A-3-14(c)(21) of
926 this code;

927 (C) An honorably discharged Marine Corps League member pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(13)
928 of this code;

929 (D) A member of a military organization pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(14) of this code;

930 (E) A recipient of the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying
931 Cross, Air Force Cross, Bronze Star, Silver Star, or Air Medal pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(20) of this
932 code;

933 (F) A recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medic Badge pursuant to
934 §17A-3-14(c)(29) of this code;

935 (G) An honorably discharged female veteran pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(33) of this code;

936 (H) A person retired from any branch of the armed services of the United States pursuant
937 to §17A-3-14(c)(36) of this code; or

938 (I) A member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(40) of
939 this code.

940 (3) "Qualifying applicant" means an applicant who qualifies for an exempt military special
941 registration plate, and who also qualifies for a nonexempt military special registration plate, who
942 requests that the division issue one such nonexempt military special registration plate instead of
943 such exempt military special registration plate to have such nonexempt military special registration
944 plate be exempt from the payment of registration fees.

ARTICLE 10. FEES FOR REGISTRATION, LICENSING, ETC.

§17A-10-8. Vehicles exempt from payment of registration fees.

1 The following specified vehicles shall be exempt from the payment of any registration fees:

2 (1) Any vehicle owned or operated by the United States government, the State of West
3 Virginia or any of their political subdivisions. The proper representative of the United States

4 government, the State of West Virginia or any of their political subdivisions shall make an
5 application for registration for the vehicle and the registration plate or plates issued for the vehicle
6 shall be displayed as provided in this chapter;

7 (2) Any fire vehicle owned or operated by a volunteer fire department organized for the
8 protection of community property;

9 (3) Any ambulance or any other emergency rescue vehicle owned or operated by a
10 nonprofit, charitable organization and used exclusively for charitable purposes;

11 (4) Any vehicle owned by a disabled veteran as defined by the provisions of Public Law
12 663 of the 79th Congress of the United States, or Public Law 187 of the 82nd Congress of the
13 United States, or Public Law 77 of the 90th Congress of the United States; except for vehicles
14 used for hire which are owned by disabled veterans;

15 (5) Not more than one vehicle owned by a veteran with a hundred percent total and
16 permanent service-connected disability as certified by the Director of the Department of Veterans'
17 Affairs of West Virginia and not used for commercial purposes;

18 (6) Not more than one Class A or Class G vehicle, as defined in section one of this article,
19 owned by a former prisoner of war and not used for commercial purposes. For purposes of this
20 subdivision, the term "prisoner of war" means any member of the Armed Forces of the United
21 States, including the United States Coast Guard and National Guard, who was held by any hostile
22 force with which the United States was actually engaged in armed conflict during any period of the
23 incarceration; or any person, military or civilian, assigned to duty on the U.S.S. Pueblo who was
24 captured by the military forces of North Korea on January 23, 1968, and thereafter held prisoner;
25 except any person who, at any time, voluntarily, knowingly and without duress, gave aid to or
26 collaborated with or in any manner served any such hostile force;

27 (7) Not more than one Class A or Class G vehicle, as defined in section one of this article,
28 owned by a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor and not used for commercial purposes;

29 and

30 (8) Vehicles registered in the name of community action agencies and used exclusively for
31 a Head Start program; and

32 (9) Not more than one Class A vehicle owned by a member of a volunteer fire department
33 organized for the protection of community property and not used for commercial purposes.

ARTICLE 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL.

§17B-2-1. Drivers must be licensed; types of licenses; licensees need not obtain local government license; motorcycle driver license; identification cards.

1 (a) (1) No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, may drive a motor vehicle
2 upon a street or highway in this state or upon a subdivision street used by the public generally
3 unless the person has a valid driver's license issued pursuant to this code for the type or class of
4 vehicle being driven.

5 (2) Any person licensed to operate a motor vehicle pursuant to this code may exercise the
6 privilege thereby granted in the manner provided in this code and, except as otherwise provided by
7 law, is not required to obtain any other license to exercise the privilege by a county, municipality, or
8 local board or body having authority to adopt local police regulations.

9 (b) The division, upon issuing a driver's license, shall indicate on the license the type or
10 general class or classes of vehicles the licensee may operate in accordance with this code, federal
11 law, or rule. Licenses shall be issued in different colors for those drivers under age 18, those
12 drivers age 18 to 21, and adult drivers. The commissioner is authorized to select and assign
13 colors to the licenses of the various age groups.

14 (c) The following drivers' licenses classifications are hereby established:

15 (1) A Class A, B, or C license shall be issued to those persons 18 years of age or older with
16 two years of driving experience who have qualified for the commercial driver's license established
17 by Chapter 17E of this code and the federal Motor Carrier Safety and Improvement Act of 1999
18 subsequent rules, and have paid the required fee.

19 (2) A Class D license shall be issued to those persons 18 years and older with one year of

20 driving experience who operate motor vehicles other than those types of vehicles which require
21 the operator to be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 17E of this code and federal law and
22 rule and whose primary function or employment is the transportation of persons or property for
23 compensation or wages and have paid the required fee. For the purpose of regulating the
24 operation of motor vehicles, wherever the term "chauffeur's license" is used in this code, it means
25 the Class A, B, C, or D license described in this section or Chapter 17E of this code or federal law
26 or rule: *Provided*, That anyone not required to be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 17E of
27 this code and federal law or rule and who operates a motor vehicle registered or required to be
28 registered as a Class A motor vehicle, as that term is defined in §17A-10-1 of this code, with a
29 gross vehicle weight rating of less than 8,001 pounds, is not required to obtain a Class D license.

30 (3) A Class E license shall be issued to persons who have qualified for a driver's license
31 under the provisions of this chapter and who are not required to obtain a Class A, B, C, or D license
32 and who have paid the required fee. The Class E license may be endorsed under §17B-2-7b of
33 this code for motorcycle operation. The Class E or G license for a person under the age of 18 may
34 also be endorsed with the appropriate graduated driver license level in accordance with §17B-2-
35 3a of this code.

36 (4) A Class F license shall be issued to those persons who successfully complete the
37 motorcycle examination procedure provided by this chapter and have paid the required fee but
38 who do not possess a Class A, B, C, D, or E driver's license.

39 (5) A Class G driver's license or instruction permit shall be issued to a person using bioptic
40 telescopic lenses who has successfully completed an approved driver training program and
41 complied with all other requirements of §17B-2B-1 *et seq.* of this code.

42 (d) All licenses issued under this section may contain information designating the licensee
43 as a diabetic, an organ donor, deaf or hard-of-hearing, as having any other handicap or disability,
44 or that the licensee is an honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the Armed Forces of the
45 United States, according to criteria established by the division, if the licensee requests this

46 information on the license. An honorably discharged veteran may be issued a replacement license
47 without charge if the request is made before the expiration date of the current license and the only
48 purpose for receiving the replacement license is to get the veterans designation placed on the
49 license.

50 (e) No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, may drive a motorcycle on a
51 street or highway in this state or on a subdivision street used by the public generally unless the
52 person has a valid motorcycle license, a valid license which has been endorsed under §17A-2-17b
53 of this code for motorcycle operation, or a valid motorcycle instruction permit.

54 (f) (1) An identification card may be issued to a person who:

55 (A) Is a resident of this state in accordance with §17A-3-1a of this code;

56 (B) Has reached the age of two years or, for good cause shown, under the age of two;

57 (C) Has paid the required fee of \$5 per year. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust this
58 fee every five years on September 1, based on the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor
59 Statistics most current Consumer Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in such fee may not
60 exceed 10 percent of the total fee amount in a single year: *Provided, however*, That no fees or
61 charges, including renewal fees, are required if the applicant:

62 (i) Is 65 years or older;

63 (ii) Is legally blind; or

64 (iii) Will be at least 18 years of age at the next general, municipal, or special election and
65 intends to use this identification card as a form of identification for voting; and

66 (D) Presents a birth certificate or other proof of age and identity acceptable to the division
67 with a completed application on a form supplied by the division.

68 (2) The identification card shall contain the same information as a driver's license except
69 that the identification card shall be clearly marked as an identification card. The division may issue
70 an identification card with less information to persons under the age of 16. The division may issue
71 an identification card without a photograph pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection. An

72 identification card may be renewed annually on application and payment of the fee required by this
73 section.

74 (A) Every identification card issued to a person who has attained his or her 21st birthday
75 expires on the licensee's birthday in those years in which the licensee's age is evenly divisible by
76 five. Except as provided in paragraph (B) of this subdivision, no identification card may be issued
77 for less than three years or for more than seven years and expires on the licensee's birthday in
78 those years in which the licensee's age is evenly divisible by five.

79 (B) Every identification card issued to a person who has not attained his or her 21st
80 birthday expires 30 days after the licensee's 21st birthday.

81 (C) Every identification card issued to persons under the age of 16 shall be issued for a
82 period of two years and expire on the last day of the month in which the applicant's birthday
83 occurs.

84 (3) The division may issue an identification card to an applicant whose privilege to operate
85 a motor vehicle has been refused, canceled, suspended, or revoked under the provisions of this
86 code.

87 (4) Notwithstanding the provisions of this article to the contrary, the division may issue an
88 identification card without a photograph to an applicant who under oath or affirmation affirms,
89 subject to the laws of perjury and on a form supplied by the division, that the applicant is a member
90 of a recognized religious sect that has established tenets and teachings due to which the applicant
91 is conscientiously opposed to posing for a photograph. The form supplied by the division pursuant
92 to this subdivision shall advise the applicant that an identification card without a photograph may
93 not be acceptable for all identification purposes.

94 (g) For any person over the age of 50 years who wishes to obtain a driver's license or
95 identification card under the provisions of this section:

96 (1) A raised seal or stamp on the birth certificate or certified copy of the birth certificate is
97 not required if the issuing jurisdiction does not require one; and

98 (2) If documents are lacking to prove all changes of name in the history of any such
99 applicant, applicants renewing a driver's license or identification card under the provisions of this
100 section may complete a Name Variance Approval Document as instituted by the division, so long
101 as they can provide:

102 (A) Proof of identity;

103 (B) Proof of residency; and

104 (C) A valid Social Security number.

105 (3) The division may waive any documents necessary to prove a match between names,
106 so long as the division determines the person is not attempting to:

107 (A) Change his or her identity;

108 (B) Assume another person's identity; or

109 (C) Commit fraud.

110 (h) A person over the age of 70 years, or who is on Social Security Disability, who wishes to
111 obtain or renew a driver's license or identification card under the provisions of this section, may not
112 be required to supply a copy of a birth certificate if they can provide:

113 (1) Proof of identity;

114 (2) Proof of residency;

115 (3) A valid Social Security number; and

116 (4) One of the following identifying items:

117 (A) A form of military identification, including a DD214 or equivalent;

118 (B) A U.S. passport, whether valid or expired;

119 (C) School records, including a yearbook;

120 (D) A religious document, that in the judgment of the division is sufficient and authentic to
121 reflect that the person was born in the United States; or

122 (E) An expired driver's license, employment identification card, or other reliable
123 identification card with a recognizable photograph of the person.

124 (i) There shall be no fee charged for the renewal of a driver's license for a member of a
125 volunteer fire department organized for the protection of community property who presents
126 documentation of that membership.

127 (j) Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
128 conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$500 and, upon a second or subsequent
129 conviction, shall be fined not more than \$500 or confined in jail not more than six months, or both
130 fined and confined.

ARTICLE 16. INSPECTION OF VEHICLES.

§17C-16-6. Assignment, transfer and posting of official inspection station permit; issuance and record of certificate of inspection; inspection fee.

1 (a) No permit for an official inspection station shall be assigned or transferred or used at
2 any location other than designated in the permit and every permit shall be posted in a conspicuous
3 place at the station location designated in the permit.

4 (b) The person operating the station shall issue a certificate of inspection and approval,
5 upon an official form, to the owner of a vehicle upon inspecting the vehicle and determining that its
6 equipment required under this article is in good condition and proper adjustment, but otherwise no
7 certificate shall be issued, except one issued pursuant to section two of this article. When required
8 by the superintendent, a record and report shall be made of every inspection and every certificate
9 issued.

10 (c) A fee of not more than ~~\$49~~ \$14 may be charged for an inspection and any necessary
11 headlight adjustment to proper focus, not including any replacement parts required, and the
12 issuance of the certificate, but the imposition of the charge is not mandatory. ~~The amendments~~
13 ~~made to this subsection during the 2023 regular session of the Legislature shall become effective~~
14 ~~on January 1, 2024~~

15 (d) There shall be no fee for inspection for not more than one Class A vehicle owned by a
16 member of a volunteer fire department organized for the protection of community property and not

17 used for commercial purposes. Upon presentation of the appropriate documentation of the
18 inspection and the waiver of the fee to the State Police, the station performing the inspection shall
19 be refunded the \$3 cost of each inspection sticker provided to member of a volunteer fire
20 department organized for the protection of community property and up to \$11 in the remaining cost
21 of performing the inspection.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove the fees for license plates, vehicle registration, operator's licenses, registration, and inspection fees for volunteer fire fighters.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.