

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2687**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Delegate Pritt

[Introduced February 20, 2025; referred to the  
Committee on Energy and Public Works then  
Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-3-14, §17A-10-8, §17B-2-1, and §17C-16-6 of the Code of  
2 West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the fees for license plates; vehicle  
3 registration; operator's licenses; and inspection fees for volunteer fire fighters; and  
4 providing for the issuance of a special license plate for elected officials, military members;  
5 organizations; youth organizations; and others.

*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

attempt to comply with the request wherever possible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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, a special registration plate designed by the  
247 commissioner. An annual fee of \$15, in addition to all other fees required by this chapter, shall be

248 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:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(28) The division may issue volunteers and employees of the American Red Cross special registration plates as follows:



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

402 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate  
403 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified

applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of membership in the Knights of Columbus.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) The division shall design and issue special registration plates for use by democratic state or county executive committee members. The design of the plates shall include an insignia of a donkey and shall differentiate by wording on the plate between state and county executive

430 committee members.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

455 (C) A surviving spouse may continue to use his deceased spouse's honorably discharged

veterans license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Upon appropriate application, there shall be issued to any person who has retired after service in any branch of the armed services of the United States, a special registration plate for

any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant with an insignia designed by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to designate the recipient as retired from the armed services of the United States.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate depicting a farming scene or other apt reference to farming, whether in pictures or words, at the discretion of the commissioner. Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate displaying a pollinator species or advocating its protection as prescribed and

508 designated by the commissioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

531 (C) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 for each  
532 special license plate in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All initial application fees  
533 collected by the division shall be deposited into the State Road Fund: *Provided*, That nothing in

this section may be construed to exempt the applicant from any other provision of this chapter.

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

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

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

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

(C) Registration plates issued pursuant to this subdivision to survivors of wounds received in the line of duty as a member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency are exempt from the registration fees otherwise required by the provisions of this chapter. A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's special registration plate until the surviving spouse

dies, remarries, or does not renew the plate. Survivors of wounds received in the line of duty as a member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency may obtain a license plate as described in this subdivision for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant. The division shall charge a one-time fee of \$10 to be deposited into the State Road Fund, in addition to all other fees required by this chapter, for the second plate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate designed by the commissioner to commemorate the centennial anniversary of Davis and Elkins College for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the applicant.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(B) The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other

612 fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State  
613 Road Fund.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

637 (48) The division may issue special registration plates supporting organ donation and

638 adoption as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

663 (A) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate

designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the applicant.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant. Persons desiring the special registration plate shall offer sufficient proof of present or past membership in the Boy Scouts as either a member or a leader, or in the Civil Air Patrol, as applicable. The special registration plates for the Civil Air Patrol shall be designed by the commissioner in cooperation with the Civil Air Patrol.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

766           (59) The commissioner may issue special registration plates for retired or former justices of  
767 the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

816 (ii) If the organization fails to submit the required number of applications and fees within six  
817 months of the effective date of the approval of the application for the plate by the commissioner,  
818 the plate will not be produced until a new application is submitted and is approved by the  
819 commissioner: *Provided*, That an organization that is unsuccessful in obtaining the minimum

number of applications may not make a new application for a special plate until at least two years have passed since the approval of the previous application of the organization.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) The commissioner may not begin the design or production of any license plates for which eligibility is based on membership or affiliation with a particular private organization until at least 100 persons complete an application and deposit with the organization a check to cover the

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

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

~~(e) In furtherance of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, §39A-1-1 et seq. of this code, the division may accept or authorize an electronic signature in any instance the law required to be enforced by the commissioner requires a signature or a pen and ink signature~~ Congressional Medal of Honor license plates:

(1) Nothing in this section requires a charge for a free prisoner of war license plate or a free recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor license plate for a vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant as authorized by other provisions of this code.

(2) A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's prisoner of war

license plate or Congressional Medal of Honor license plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license plate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 924 (C) An honorably discharged Marine Corps League member pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(13);  
925 (D) A member of a military organization pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(14);  
926 (E) A recipient of the Navy Cross, Distinguished Service Cross, Distinguished Flying  
927 Cross, Air Force Cross, Bronze Star, Silver Star, or Air Medal pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(20);  
928 (F) A recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medic Badge pursuant to  
929 §17A-3-14(c)(29);  
930 (G) An honorably discharged female veteran pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(33);  
931 (H) A person retired from any branch of the armed services of the United States pursuant  
932 to §17A-3-14(c)(36); or  
933 (I) A member of the 82nd Airborne Division Association pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(40).  
934 (3) "Qualifying applicant" means an applicant who qualifies for an exempt military special  
935 registration plate, and who also qualifies for a nonexempt military special registration plate, who  
936 requests that the division issue one such nonexempt military special registration plate instead of  
937 such exempt military special registration plate to have such nonexempt military special registration  
938 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

nonprofit, charitable organization and used exclusively for charitable purposes;

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

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

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

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

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

(9) Not more than one Class A vehicle owned by a member of a volunteer fire department 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



or rule: *Provided*, That anyone not required to be licensed under the provisions of Chapter 17E of this code and federal law or rule and who operates a motor vehicle registered or required to be registered as a Class A motor vehicle, as that term is defined in §17A-10-1 of this code, with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 8,001 pounds, is not required to obtain a Class D license.

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

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

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

(d) All licenses issued under this section may contain information designating the licensee as a diabetic, an organ donor, deaf or hard-of-hearing, as having any other handicap or disability, or that the licensee is an honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States, according to criteria established by the division, if the licensee requests this information on the license. An honorably discharged veteran may be issued a replacement license without charge if the request is made before the expiration date of the current license and the only purpose for receiving the replacement license is to get the veterans designation placed on the license.

(e) No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, may drive a motorcycle on a street or highway in this state or on a subdivision street used by the public generally unless the

person has a valid motorcycle license, a valid license which has been endorsed under §17A-2-17b of this code for motorcycle operation, or a valid motorcycle instruction permit.

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

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

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

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

(i) Is 65 years or older;

(ii) Is legally blind; or

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

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

(2) The identification card shall contain the same information as a driver's license except that the identification card shall be clearly marked as an identification card. The division may issue an identification card with less information to persons under the age of 16. The division may issue an identification card without a photograph pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection. An identification card may be renewed annually on application and payment of the fee required by this section.

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

those years in which the licensee's age is evenly divisible by five.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) Proof of identity;

(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 ~~\$19~~ \$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. The bill also provides for the issuance of a special license plate for elected officials, military members, organizations, youth organizations, and others.

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