

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3197

By Delegates Dillon and Ridenour

[Introduced March 06, 2025; referred to the
Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-3-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to lost titles; clarifying conditions when the division shall issue a new title; and providing
3 circumstances which void title and initiate a legal investigation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 3. ORIGINAL AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF
CERTIFICATES OF TITLE.**

§17A-3-19. Lost or damaged certificates, cards and plates.

1 (a) In the event any registration card or registration plate is lost, mutilated, or becomes
2 illegible the owner or legal representative or successor in interest of the owner of the vehicle for
3 which the same was issued as shown by the records of the ~~department~~ division shall immediately
4 make application for and may obtain a duplicate or a substitute or a new registration under a new
5 registration number, as determined to be most advisable by the ~~department~~ division, upon the
6 applicant furnishing information satisfactory to the ~~department~~ division.

7 (b) In the event any certificate of title is lost, mutilated, or becomes illegible, the owner or
8 legal representative or successor in interest of the owner of the vehicle for which the same was
9 issued, as shown by the records of the ~~department~~ division, shall immediately make application for
10 and may obtain a duplicate upon the applicant furnishing information satisfactory to the
11 ~~department~~ division. Upon issuance of any duplicate certificate of title the previous certificate last
12 issued shall be void.

13 (c) The division shall issue a new title when an old title has been lost if the following
14 conditions are met:

15 (1) The vehicle does not appear on any lists as reported stolen and the owner or legal
16 representative or successor in interest of the owner of the vehicle presents a bill of sale signed by
17 both parties with a notarized affidavit by the presenter stating the validity of the bill of sale; or

18 (2) When a vehicle is at least 25 years old, the vehicle does not appear on any lists as

19 reported stolen and the owner or legal representative or successor in interest of the owner
20 presents a bill of sale signed by both parties with a notarized affidavit by the presenter stating that
21 the bill of sale legitimately reflects the nature of the transaction.
22 Appearance of a valid title which predates the issued title together with a report of the
23 vehicle as stolen will void the title issued under this subsection and trigger an automatic law
24 enforcement investigation.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify conditions when the division shall issue a new title and provide circumstances which void title issued and initiate a legal investigation.

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