

SENATE BILL 275

R4

(PRE-FILED)

4r0091
CF HB 231

By: **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Departmental – Veterans Affairs)**

Requested: September 18, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Special Registration Plates – Gold Star and Next of Kin Families**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the recipient of a U.S. Department of Defense Next of Kin
4 lapel button to apply for special registration plates; waiving the initial vehicle
5 registration fee associated with, and requiring the name and rank of the deceased
6 service member to be included on, special registration plates issued to the recipient
7 of a Gold Star or a Next of Kin lapel button; and generally relating to special
8 registration plates for recipients of Gold Stars and Next of Kin lapel buttons.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 13–619.1(a)(1)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Transportation
16 Section 13–619.1(a)(4), (b), and (c)(2)(iii)
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

19 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
20 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

21 **Article – Transportation**

22 13–619.1.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (a) (1) The owner of a motor vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a lease not
2 intended as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business entity that
3 owns the vehicle may apply to the Administration for the assignment of a special
4 registration number and special registration plates under this section for a vehicle included
5 in one of the following classes:

6 (i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

7 (ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle with a one ton or less manufacturer's
8 rated capacity;

9 (iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle; or

10 (iv) A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle.

11 (4) To be eligible for a special registration described under subsection
12 (c)(2)(iii) of this section, an applicant shall provide proof that is satisfactory to the
13 Administration that the applicant is a recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense Gold
14 Star **OR NEXT OF KIN LAPEL BUTTON** for surviving spouses, parents, and next of kin of
15 members of the armed forces who lost their lives [in combat] **WHILE SERVING ON ACTIVE**
16 **DUTY OR WHILE ASSIGNED TO A RESERVE OR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT IN A DRILL**
17 **STATUS.**

18 (b) (1) [In] **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS**
19 **SUBSECTION, IN** addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under this
20 title, an owner of a vehicle assigned a special registration under this section shall pay a fee
21 as determined by the Administration each time new registration plates are issued for the
22 vehicle.

23 (2) The fee shall be calculated to:

24 (i) Recover the costs incurred by the Administration in carrying out
25 the provisions of this section; and

26 (ii) Result in a surplus of at least \$10 for each issuance of new
27 registration plates under this section.

28 (3) (i) The portion of the additional fee charged under paragraph (2)(i)
29 of this subsection shall be retained by the Administration for the purpose of recovering the
30 Administration's costs under this section.

31 (ii) The portion of the additional fee charged under paragraph (2)(ii)
32 of this subsection:

33 1. May not be retained by or transferred to any agency of the
34 State for any purpose; and

