

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2346

BY DELEGATES HOWELL, UPSON, MAYNARD, STATLER,
WALTERS, MCGEEHAN, SYPOLT, WESTFALL, HAMRICK,
HIGGINBOTHAM AND HARSHBARGER

[Originating in the Committee on Government
Organization; Reported March 22, 2017]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §17A-3-14a, relating to motor vehicle license plates; requiring the
3 Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to conduct a study on the cost
4 effectiveness of flat license plates; to study the privatization of the creation and issuance
5 of license plates; and requiring a report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on
6 Department of Transportation Accountability.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
2 section, designated §17A-3-14a, to read as follows:

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

§17A-3-14a. Study on feasibility of use of flat registration plates.

1 (a) The commissioner shall conduct a study to consider the feasibility of the use of flat
2 registration plates for motor vehicle registration. The study shall include:

3 (1) A description, examination and analysis of the processes, equipment and machinery
4 necessary to design, manufacture flat registration plates;

5 (2) The feasibility of utilizing existing equipment and the cost of necessary new equipment
6 and other expenses incident to produce flat registration plates;

7 (3) A determination of whether flat registration plates would be more economical to design,
8 manufacture and issue than the current embossed registration plates.

9 (4) An analysis of the reflective and visibility qualities of flat registration plates and a
10 comparison of those qualities to the embossed registration plates currently in use;

11 (5) The advantages and disadvantages of the use of flat registration plates rather than the
12 embossed registration plates currently in use; and

13 (6) Recommendations as to whether the current embossed registration plates should be
14 replaced by flat registration plates.

15 (b) The commissioner shall conduct a study to consider privatizing the creation and
16 issuance of license plates. The study shall include:

17 (1) The feasibility of privatizing the creation and issuance of license plates;

18 (2) The costs associated with privatizing the creation and issuance of license plates;

19 (3) The benefits associated with privatizing the creation and issuance of license plates;

20 and

21 (4) Recommendations as to whether the creation and issuance of license plates should
22 be privatized.

23 (c) The Commissioner shall submit a report of the findings and results of the studies to the
24 Joint Legislative Oversight Commission on Department of Transportation Accountability by
25 December 31, 2017.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to conduct a study on the cost effectiveness of flat license plates. The bill requires the commissioner to issue those types of plates if the study determines flat license plates are cost effective.

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