

SB 357

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1996

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 357

(By Senator SCHOONOVER)

PASSED MARCH 8, 1996
In Effect JULY 1, 1996 Passage

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WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

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Senate Bill No. 357

(BY SENATOR SCHOONOVER)

[Passed March 8, 1996; to take effect July 1, 1996.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section twenty-three, article three, chapter seventeen-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to individuals and state agencies exempted from using state license plates; and adding three plates per elected office of the board of public works to the exemptions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section twenty-three, article three, chapter seventeen-a of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

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

§17A-3-23. Registration plates to state, county, municipal and other governmental vehicles; use for undercover activities.

- 1 Any motor vehicle designed to carry passengers, owned
- 2 or leased by the state of West Virginia, or any of its

3 departments, bureaus, commissions or institutions,
4 except vehicles used by the governor, treasurer, three
5 plates per elected office of the board of public works,
6 vehicles operated by the department of public safety, not
7 to exceed six vehicles operated by conservation officers
8 of the division of natural resources, not to exceed ten
9 vehicles operated by the arson investigators of the office
10 of state fire marshal and not to exceed sixteen vehicles
11 operated by inspectors of the office of the alcohol
12 beverage control commissioner, shall not be operated or
13 driven by any person unless it shall have displayed and
14 attached to the front thereof, in the same manner as
15 regular motor vehicle registration plates are attached, a
16 plate of the same size as the regular registration plate,
17 with white lettering on a green background bearing the
18 words "West Virginia" in one line and the words "State
19 Car" in another line, and the lettering for the words
20 "State Car" shall be of sufficient size to be plainly
21 readable from a distance of one hundred feet during
22 daylight.

23 Such vehicle shall also have attached to the rear a
24 plate bearing a number and such other words and figures
25 as the commissioner of motor vehicles shall prescribe.
26 The rear plate shall also be green with the number in
27 white.

28 On registration plates issued to vehicles owned by
29 counties, the color shall be white on red with the word
30 "County" on top of the plate and the words "West
31 Virginia" on the bottom. On any registration plates
32 issued to a city or municipality, the color shall be white
33 on blue with the word "City" on top, and the words
34 "West Virginia" on the bottom. The colors may not be
35 reversed and shall be of reflectorized material. The
36 registration plates issued to counties, municipalities and
37 other governmental agencies authorized to receive
38 colored plates hereunder shall be affixed to both the
39 front and rear of such vehicles.

40 The commissioner is authorized to designate the colors

41 and design of any other registration plates that are
42 issued without charge to any other agency in accordance
43 with the motor vehicle laws.

44 Upon application and payment of fees, the commis-
45 sioner is authorized to issue a maximum of five Class A
46 license plates per applicant to be used by county sheriffs
47 and municipalities on law-enforcement vehicles while
48 engaged in undercover investigations.

49 The commissioner is authorized to issue an unlimited
50 number of license plates per applicant to authorized
51 drug and violent crime task forces in the state of West
52 Virginia when the chairperson of the control group of a
53 drug and violent crime task force signs a written affida-
54 vit stating that the vehicle or vehicles for which the
55 plates are being requested will be used only for official
56 undercover work conducted by such drug and violent
57 crime task force.

58 The commissioner is authorized to issue twenty Class
59 A license plates to the criminal investigation division of
60 the department of tax and revenue for use by its investi-
61 gators.

62 No other registration plate shall be issued for, or
63 attached to, any such state-owned vehicle.

64 The commissioner of motor vehicles shall have a
65 sufficient number of both front and rear plates produced
66 to attach to all state-owned cars. The numbered regis-
67 tration plates for such vehicles shall start with the
68 number "five hundred" and the commissioner shall issue
69 consecutive numbers for all state-owned cars.

70 It shall be the duty of each office, department, bureau,
71 commission or institution furnished any such vehicle to
72 have such plates affixed thereto prior to the operation of
73 such vehicle by any official or employee.

74 Any person who violates the provisions of this section
75 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction
76 thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more

77 than one hundred dollars.

78 Magistrates shall have concurrent jurisdiction with
79 circuit and criminal courts for the enforcement of this
80 section.

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Randy Schoonover
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

Rudy Seavint
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.
To take effect July 1, 1996.

Russell E. Adams
.....
Clerk of the Senate

Bryony A. Bray
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Carl By Tomblin
.....
President of the Senate

Paul E. C. [Signature]
.....
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *1st*
day of *April*, 1996.

Gaston Caperton
.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR/

Date 3/28/96

Time 9:34 am