

HB 2435

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1997



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HOUSE BILL No. 2435

(By Delegate **S** Proudfoot, Boggs, Prunty, Stemple,
Claypole, Border and Evans _____)



Passed _____ April 12, _____ 1997

In Effect _____ Ninety Days From _____ Passage

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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

H. B. 2435

(BY DELEGATES PROUDFOOT, BOGGS, PRUNTY,
STEMPLE, CLAYPOLE, BORDER AND EVANS)

[Passed April 12, 1997; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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 license plates for conservation officers.

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,
2 owned or leased by the state of West Virginia, or any of its
3 departments, bureaus, commissions or institutions, except
4 vehicles used by the governor, treasurer, three plates per
5 elected office of the board of public works, vehicles oper-
6 ated by the state police, vehicles operated by conservation

7 officers of the division of natural resources, not to exceed
8 ten vehicles operated by the arson investigators of the
9 office of state fire marshal and not to exceed sixteen vehi-
10 cles operated by inspectors of the office of the alcohol
11 beverage control commissioner, may not be operated or
12 driven by any person unless it has displayed and attached
13 to the front thereof, in the same manner as regular motor
14 vehicle registration plates are attached, a plate of the same
15 size as the regular registration plate, with white lettering on
16 a green background bearing the words "West Virginia"
17 in one line and the words "State Car" in another line, and
18 the lettering for the words "State Car" shall be of suffi-
19 cient size to be plainly readable from a distance of one
20 hundred feet during daylight.

21 The vehicle shall also have attached to the rear a plate
22 bearing a number and any other words and figures as the
23 commissioner of motor vehicles shall prescribe. The rear
24 plate shall also be green with the number in white.

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

36 The commissioner is authorized to designate the
37 colors and design of any other registration plates that are
38 issued without charge to any other agency in accordance
39 with the motor vehicle laws.

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

45 The commissioner is authorized to issue an unlimited

46 number of license plates per applicant to authorized drug
47 and violent crime task forces in the state of West Virginia
48 when the chairperson of the control group of a drug and
49 violent crime task force signs a written affidavit stating that
50 the vehicle or vehicles for which the plates are being re-
51 quested will be used only for official undercover work
52 conducted by a drug and violent crime task force.

53 The commissioner is authorized to issue twenty Class
54 A license plates to the criminal investigation division of
55 the department of tax and revenue for use by its investiga-
56 tors.

57 The commissioner may issue a maximum of ten
58 Class A license plates to the division of natural resources
59 for use by conservation officers. The commissioner shall
60 designate the color and design of the registration plates to
61 be displayed on the front and the rear of all other state-
62 owned vehicles owned by the division of natural resources
63 and operated by conservation officers.

64 No other registration plate may be issued for, or
65 attached to, any state-owned vehicle.

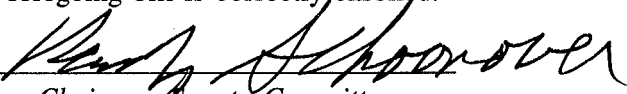
66 The commissioner of motor vehicles shall have a
67 sufficient number of both front and rear plates produced
68 to attach to all state-owned cars. The numbered registra-
69 tion plates for the vehicles shall start with the number
70 "five hundred" and the commissioner shall issue consec-
71 utive numbers for all state-owned cars.

72 It is the duty of each office, department, bureau,
73 commission or institution furnished any vehicle to have
74 plates as described herein affixed thereto prior to the op-
75 eration of the vehicle by any official or employee.

76 Any person who violates the provisions of this sec-
77 tion shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon convic-
78 tion thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor
79 more than one hundred dollars.

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

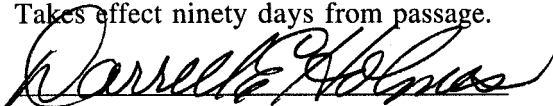
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

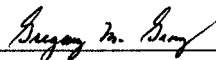

Chairman Senate Committee

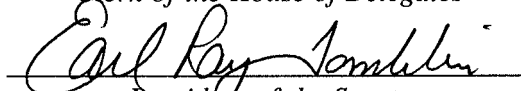

Chairman House Committee

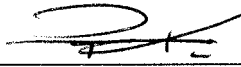
Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

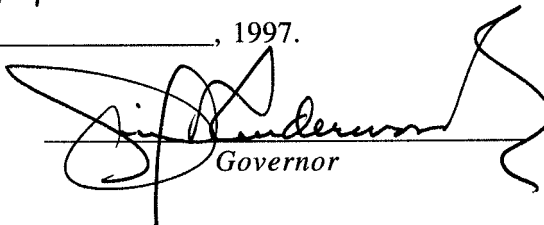

Clerk of the Senate


Clerk of the House of Delegates


President of the Senate


Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 18th
day of May, 1997.


Governor

PRESENTED TO THE

GOVERNOR

Date 4/25/97

Time 2:05pm