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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Regular Session, 2002

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute for

SENATE BILL NO. 631

(By Senator Chafin et al)

PASSED March 9, 2002

In Effect ninety days from **Passage**

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WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

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COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 631

(SENATORS CHAFIN, SNYDER, CALDWELL,
LOVE AND ROSS, *original sponsors*)

[Passed March 9, 2002; 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 authorizing special license plates for county sheriffs and their deputies; and fees to be paid by applicants.

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 (a) 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
6 operated by the state police, vehicles operated by conser-
7 vation officers of the division of natural resources, not to
8 exceed ten vehicles operated by the arson investigators of
9 the office of state fire marshal and not to exceed sixteen
10 vehicles 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
16 on 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 (b) 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
30 with the word "City" on top and the words "West Vir-
31 ginia" on the bottom. The colors may not be reversed and
32 shall be of reflectorized material. The registration plates
33 issued to counties, municipalities and other governmental

34 agencies authorized to receive colored plates hereunder
35 shall be affixed to both the front and rear of the vehicles.

36 (c) Registration plates issued to vehicles operated by
37 county sheriffs shall be designed by the commissioner in
38 cooperation with the sheriffs' association with the word
39 "Sheriff" on top of the plate and the words "West Vir-
40 ginia" on the bottom. The plate shall contain a gold shield
41 representing the sheriff's star and a number assigned to
42 that plate by the commissioner. Every county sheriff shall
43 provide the commissioner with a list of vehicles operated
44 by the sheriff, unless otherwise provided in this section,
45 and a fee of ten dollars for each vehicle submitted by the
46 first day of July, two thousand two.

47 (d) The commissioner is authorized to designate the
48 colors and design of any other registration plates that are
49 issued without charge to any other agency in accordance
50 with the motor vehicle laws.

51 (e) Upon application, the commissioner is authorized to
52 issue a maximum of five Class A license plates per appli-
53 cant to be used by county sheriffs and municipalities on
54 law-enforcement vehicles while engaged in undercover
55 investigations.

56 (f) The commissioner is authorized to issue an unlimited
57 number of license plates per applicant to authorized drug
58 and violent crime task forces in the state of West Virginia
59 when the chairperson of the control group of a drug and
60 violent crime task force signs a written affidavit stating
61 that the vehicle or vehicles for which the plates are being
62 requested will be used only for official undercover work
63 conducted by a drug and violent crime task force.

64 (g) The commissioner is authorized to issue twenty Class
65 A license plates to the criminal investigation division of
66 the department of tax and revenue for use by its investiga-
67 tors.

68 (h) The commissioner may issue a maximum of ten Class
69 A license plates to the division of natural resources for use

70 by conservation officers. The commissioner shall design-
71 nate the color and design of the registration plates to be
72 displayed on the front and the rear of all other
73 state-owned vehicles owned by the division of natural
74 resources and operated by conservation officers.

75 (i) The commissioner is authorized to issue an unlimited
76 number of Class A license plates to the commission on
77 special investigations for state-owned vehicles used for
78 official undercover work conducted by the commission on
79 special investigations.

80 (j) No other registration plate may be issued for, or
81 attached to, any state-owned vehicle.

82 (k) The commissioner of motor vehicles shall have a
83 sufficient number of both front and rear plates produced
84 to attach to all state-owned cars. The numbered registra-
85 tion plates for the vehicles shall start with the number
86 "five hundred" and the commissioner shall issue consecu-
87 tive numbers for all state-owned cars.

88 (l) It is the duty of each office, department, bureau,
89 commission or institution furnished any vehicle to have
90 plates as described herein affixed thereto prior to the
91 operation of the vehicle by any official or employee.

92 (m) Any person who violates the provisions of this
93 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon convic-
94 tion thereof, shall be fined not less than fifty dollars nor
95 more than one hundred dollars. Magistrates shall have
96 concurrent jurisdiction with circuit and criminal courts for
97 the enforcement of this section.

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

[Signature]
.....
Chairman Senate Committee

[Signature]
.....
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

[Signature]
.....
Clerk of the Senate

[Signature]
.....
Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Signature]
.....
President of the Senate

[Signature]
.....
Speaker House of Delegates

The within *is approved* this the *3*
Day of *April*, 2002.

[Signature]
.....
Governor

RECEIVED

CASH

Date: 4/2/02

Am. 10,000.00