WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 233

By Senators Clements, Trump, Phillips, and Rucker

[Introduced January 16, 2023; referred
to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure]

A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-6-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §17A-6B-10 of said code; and to amend and reenact §17A-6C-11, all relating to the extension of the expiration of temporary registration plates from 60 days to 90 days.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Article 6. Licensing of dealers and wreckers or dismantlers; special plates; temporary plates or markers.

§17A-6-15. Temporary registration plates or markers.

(a) In order to permit a vehicle which is sold to a purchaser by a dealer to be operated on the streets and highways pending receipt of the annual registration plate from the division for such vehicle, the commissioner may, subject to the limitations and conditions hereinafter set forth, deliver temporary vehicle registration plates or markers to dealers who in turn may, subject to the limitations and conditions hereinafter set forth, issue the same to purchasers of vehicles, but such purchasers must comply with the pertinent provisions of this section.

(b) Application by a dealer to the commissioner for temporary registration plates or markers shall be made on the form and in the manner prescribed and furnished by the commissioner for such purpose and shall be accompanied by a fee of $3 for each such temporary registration plate or marker. The commissioner may require the fee to be remitted to the division in an electronic format. No refund or credit of fees paid by dealers to the commissioner for temporary registration plates or markers shall be allowed, except that in the event the commissioner discontinues the issuance of such temporary plates or markers, dealers returning temporary registration plates or markers to the commissioner may petition for and be entitled to a refund or a credit thereof. No temporary registration plates or markers shall be delivered by the commissioner to any dealer in house trailers only, and no such temporary plates or markers shall be issued for or used on any house trailer for any purpose.

(c) Every dealer who has made application for and received temporary registration plates or markers shall maintain in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, a record of all temporary registration plates or markers issued by him or her, and a record of any other information pertaining to the receipt or the issuance of temporary registration plates or markers which the commissioner may require. Every dealer who issues a temporary registration plate or marker shall notify the division in the manner prescribed by the commissioner. No temporary registration plates or markers may be delivered to any dealer until such dealer has fully accounted to the commissioner for the temporary registration plates or markers last delivered to such dealer, by showing the number issued to purchasers by such dealer and any on hand.

(d) A dealer may not issue, assign, transfer or deliver a temporary registration plate or marker to anyone other than the bona fide purchaser of the vehicle to be registered; nor may a dealer issue a temporary registration plate or marker to anyone possessed of an annual registration plate for a vehicle which has been sold or exchanged, except a dealer may issue a temporary registration plate or marker to the bona fide purchaser of a vehicle to be registered who possesses an annual registration plate of a different class and makes application to the division to exchange such annual registration plate of a different class in accordance with the provisions of section one, article four of this chapter; nor may a dealer lend to anyone, or use on any vehicle which he or she may own, a temporary registration plate or marker. It is unlawful for any dealer to issue any temporary registration plate or marker knowingly containing any misstatement of fact, or knowingly to insert any false information upon the face thereof.

(e) Every dealer who issues temporary registration plates or markers shall affix or insert clearly and indelibly on the face of each temporary registration plate or marker in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, the date of issuance and expiration thereof, and the make and motor or serial number of the vehicle for which issued.

(f) If the commissioner finds that the provisions of this section or his or her directions are not being complied with by a dealer, he or she may suspend the right of such dealer to issue temporary registration plates or markers.

(g) Every person to whom a temporary registration plate or marker has been issued shall permanently destroy such temporary registration plate or marker immediately upon receiving the annual registration plate for such vehicle from the division: *Provided*, That if the annual registration plate is not received within ~~sixty~~ 90 days of the issuance of the temporary registration plate or marker, the owner shall, notwithstanding the fact that the annual registration plate has not been received, immediately and permanently destroy the temporary registration plate or marker: *Provided, however,* That not more than one temporary registration plate or marker shall be issued to the same bona fide purchaser for the same vehicle.

(h) A temporary registration plate or marker shall expire and become void upon the receipt of the annual registration plate from the division or upon the rescission of the contract to purchase the vehicle in question, or upon the expiration of ~~sixty~~ ~~ninety~~ 90 days from the date of issuance, depending upon whichever event shall first occur.

(i) For the purpose of this section, the term "dealer" includes a wrecker/dismantler/rebuilder and in the context of issuing temporary registration plates, any other business licensed by the division in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and authorized to issue temporary registration plates or markers.

(j) The commissioner may require participation in an electronic temporary plate issuance system by all dealers as a precondition for authority for a dealer to issue temporary license plates or markers.

ARTICLE 6B. LICENSE SERVICES.

§17A-6B-10. Temporary registration plates or markers.

(a) In order to permit a vehicle which is to be titled and registered to be operated on the streets and highways pending receipt of the annual registration plate from the division for such vehicle, the commissioner may, subject to the limitations and conditions hereinafter set forth, deliver temporary vehicle registration plates or markers to persons engaged in license service businesses who in turn may, subject to the limitations and conditions hereinafter set forth, issue the same to applicants for title and registration of vehicles, but such applicants must comply with the pertinent provisions of this section.

(b) Application by a license service business to the commissioner for such temporary registration plates or markers shall be made on the form prescribed and furnished by the commissioner for such purpose and shall be accompanied by a fee of $3 for each such temporary registration plate or marker. No refund or credit of fees paid by license services to the commissioner for temporary registration plates or markers shall be allowed, except that in the event the commissioner discontinues the issuance of such temporary plates or markers, license services returning temporary registration plates or markers to the commissioner may petition for and be entitled to a refund or a credit thereof.

(c) Every license service who has made application for and received temporary registration plates or markers shall maintain in permanent form a record of all temporary registration plates or markers delivered to the licensee, a record of all temporary registration plates or markers issued, and a record of any other information pertaining to the receipt or the issuance of temporary registration plates or markers which the commissioner may require. Each such record shall be kept for a period of at least three years from the date of the making thereof.

Every licensee who issues a temporary registration plate or marker shall, within five working days after the issuance of such plate or marker, send to the division a copy of the temporary registration plate or marker certificate properly executed by the license service and the purchaser.

No temporary registration plates or markers may be delivered to any license service until such license service has fully accounted to the commissioner for the temporary registration plates or markers last delivered to such license service, by showing the number issued to purchasers by such license service and any on hand.

(d) A license service shall not issue, assign, or deliver a temporary registration plate or marker to anyone other than the bona fide applicant for title and registration of the vehicle to be registered. Not more than one temporary registration plate or marker shall be issued to the same bona fide applicant for the same vehicle. A license service shall not issue a temporary registration plate or marker to anyone possessed of an annual registration plate for a vehicle which has been sold or exchanged, except a license service may issue a temporary registration plate or marker to the bona fide applicant of a vehicle to be registered who possesses an annual registration plate of a different class and makes application to the division to exchange such annual registration plate of a different class in accordance with the provisions of section one, article four of this chapter. A license service shall not lend to anyone, or use on any vehicle which he or she may own, a temporary registration plate or marker.

It is unlawful for any license service to issue any temporary registration plate or marker which contains a misstatement of fact or false information.

No license service shall issue, assign or deliver a temporary registration plate or marker to anyone unless and until the license service has physical possession of the application and appropriate fees and taxes of the vehicle to be titled and registered. Such application, fees, and taxes shall be postmarked to the issuing agency or submitted to the Division of Motor Vehicles within 48 hours after issuance of the temporary plate or marker.

(e) Every license service who issues temporary registration plates or markers shall affix or insert clearly and indelibly on the face of each temporary registration plate or marker the date of issuance and expiration thereof, and the make, model, and serial number of the vehicle for which issued.

(f) If the commissioner finds that the provisions of this section or his or her directions are not being complied with by a license service, he or she may suspend the right of such license service to issue temporary registration plates or markers.

(g) A temporary registration plate or marker shall expire upon the receipt of the annual registration plate from the division, or upon the rescission of the contract to purchase the vehicle in question, or upon the expiration of ~~sixty~~ 90 days from the date of issuance, depending upon which event occurs first.

(h) A license service may charge a fee not to exceed $5 for issuing a temporary registration plate or marker.

ARTICLE 6C. AUTOMOBILE AUCTION BUSINESSES.

§17A-6C-11. Temporary registration plates or markers.

(a) In order to permit a vehicle which is to be titled and registered to be operated on the streets and highways pending receipt of the annual registration plate, the commissioner may, subject to the following limitations, deliver temporary vehicle registration plates or markers to persons engaged in the automobile auction business for issuance to applicants for title and registration of vehicles.

(b) An application by an automobile auction business to the commissioner for temporary registration plates or markers shall be made on the form prescribed and furnished by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by a fee of $3 for each temporary registration plate or marker. No refund or credit of fees paid by automobile auction businesses to the commissioner for temporary registration plates or markers is allowed, except in the event the commissioner discontinues the issuance of temporary plates or markers. Automobile auction businesses returning temporary registration plates or markers to the commissioner may petition for and be entitled to a refund or a credit.

(c) Every automobile auction business applying for and receiving temporary registration plates or markers shall maintain in permanent form a record of all temporary registration plates or markers delivered to the licensee, a record of all temporary registration plates or markers issued and a record of any other information pertaining to the receipt or the issuance of temporary registration plates or markers which the commissioner may require. Each record shall be kept for a period of at least three years from the date issued. Every automobile auction business issuing a temporary registration plate or marker shall send to the division a copy of the temporary registration plate or marker certificate properly executed by the automobile auction business and the purchaser within five working days after the issuance of the plate or marker. No temporary registration plates or markers may be delivered to any automobile auction business until the business has fully accounted to the commissioner for the temporary registration plates or markers last delivered by showing the number issued to purchasers and the number remaining to be issued.

(d) An automobile auction business may not issue, assign or deliver a temporary registration plate or marker to anyone other than the bona fide applicant for title and registration of the vehicle to be registered. Not more than one temporary registration plate or marker may be issued to the same bona fide applicant for the same vehicle. An automobile auction business may not issue a temporary registration or marker to anyone possessing an annual registration plate for a vehicle which has been sold or exchanged, except an automobile auction business may issue a temporary registration plate or marker to the bona fide applicant who possesses an annual registration plate of a different class and it may make application to the division to exchange the annual registration plate of a different class in accordance with the provisions of section one, article four of this chapter. An automobile auction business may not lend to anyone or use on any vehicle which it may own, a temporary registration plate or marker. It is unlawful for any automobile auction business to issue any temporary registration plate or marker which contains a misstatement of fact or false information.

(e) Every automobile auction business issuing temporary registration plates or markers shall affix or insert clearly and indelibly on the face of each temporary registration plate or marker the date of issuance, the date of expiration and the make, model and serial number of the vehicle.

(f) If the commissioner finds that the provisions of this section or his or her directions are not being complied with by an automobile auction business, the commissioner may suspend the right of the automobile auction business to issue temporary registration plates or markers.

(g) A temporary registration plate or marker expires upon the receipt of the annual registration plate from the division, or upon the rescission of the contract to purchase the vehicle in question, or upon the expiration of ~~sixty~~ 90 days from the date of issuance, whichever event occurs first.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to extend the expiration of temporary registration plates from 60 days to 90 days.

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