

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Introduced**

## **House Bill 4502**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Delegates Hott, Fehrenbacher, Chiarelli, Zatezalo,

Anderson, Jennings, Heckert, Mallow, Green, G.

Howell, and Willis

[Introduced January 19, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Energy and Public Works]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17A-3-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to license plates; and authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special  
3 registration plate for autism awareness.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

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

**§17A-3-14. Registration plates generally; description of plates; issuance of special  
numbers and plates; registration fees; special application fees; exemptions;  
commissioner to promulgate forms; suspension and nonrenewal. suspension of  
registration; electronic signatures.**

1 (a) The division, upon registering a vehicle, shall issue to the owner one registration plate  
2 with a registration number consisting of a combination of letters, numerals, symbols, or characters  
3 in a configuration determined by the commissioner.

4 (b) Registration plates issued by the division shall meet the following requirements:

5 (1) Plates must incorporate reflectorized material.

6 (2) Registration numbers shall be plainly readable from 100 feet during daylight.

7 (3) The commissioner may assign any additional feature to facilitate reciprocal  
8 agreements, facilitate interstate travel, promote highway safety, or promote the efficient operation  
9 of the division.

10 (c) The commissioner may suspend the registration of any owner who displays a damaged  
11 or illegible plate or otherwise fails to comply with the requirements of §17A-3-19 of this code.

12 (d) The division may issue a special registration plate for autism awareness as follows:

13 (1) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue a special registration plate  
14 designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified  
15 applicant.

16           (2) The division shall charge a special one-time initial application fee of \$10 in addition to  
17 all other fees required by law. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in  
18 the State Road Fund.

19           (3) An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate in addition to all other fees required  
20 by this chapter.

21           ~~(d)~~(e) Any license plate issued or renewed pursuant to this chapter which is paid for by a  
22 check that is returned for nonsufficient funds is void without further notice to the applicant. The  
23 applicant may not reinstate the registration until the returned check is paid by the applicant in cash,  
24 money order, or certified check and all applicable fees assessed as a result thereof have been  
25 paid.

26           ~~(e)~~(f) In furtherance of the Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, §39A-1-1 *et seq.* of this  
27 code, the division may accept or authorize an electronic signature in any instance the law required  
28 to be enforced by the commissioner requires a signature or a pen and ink signature.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue special  
registration plates for autism awareness.

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