upon payment of a fee of \$.50 in addition to any other fees required by this article, the Department shall issue for said passenger motor vehicle special registration plates upon which shall be inscribed in letters and numerals not less than three inches high and in strokes of not less than one-quarter inch in width the letters VFW followed by appropriate LETTER AND numerals in lieu of the numerals required to be displayed on such registration plates under other provisions of this article.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 1963.

Approved May 6, 1963.

CHAPTER 824

(House Bill 731)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact, with amendments, Section 1 (15) of Article 738 73B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Pensions," subtitle "In General," amending the State Employees' Retirement System laws to make applicable to certain members of the system the average final compensation as defined by an amendment enacted in 1955.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That Section 1 (15) of Article 73B of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition), title "Pensions," subtitle "In General," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

1.

(15) "Average final compensation" shall mean the average annual earnable compensation of an employee for the five consecutive years of service as an employee during which his earnable compensation was highest, or if he had less than five years of service, then his average earnable compensation for his total service.

Beginning July 1, 1963, the provisions of this subsection shall apply to members who retired prior to July 1, 1955 as well as to those who retired on or after that date.

SEC. 2. And be it further enacted, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1963.

Approved May 6, 1963.

CHAPTER 825

(House Bill 3)

AN ACT to repeal and re-enact with amendments Section 30 of Article 19 of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1957 Edition and 1962 Supplement), title "Comptroller", sub-title "State Auditor", to