

License tags are used to establish registration and ownership of a motor vehicle and, perhaps more importantly, to facilitate law-enforcement operations by allowing quick identification of a suspect vehicle. Given the already limited space available on the tag itself, I fear that special registration tags on motorcycles would make it even more difficult for law-enforcement personnel to establish a positive identification at a distance.

Furthermore, I believe that these special registration plates could ultimately jeopardize highway safety. Tailgating would be inadvertently encouraged as needless attention would be focused on the plate's small design or slogan rather than on the cyclist's actions. The increased accident potential that results counters the spirit of my 1992 mandatory motorcycle helmet law, which was enacted to protect the safety of motorcyclists throughout the State.

Sincerely,
William Donald Schaefer
Governor

House Bill No. 374

AN ACT concerning

Motorcycles – Special Registration Plate for Members of Motorcyclist Organizations

FOR the purpose of authorizing the owner of a motorcycle who is a member of certain motorcyclist organizations to apply to the Motor Vehicle Administration for the issuance of a special registration number for the motorcycle under certain circumstances; providing for the effective date of this Act; and generally relating to the issuance of a special registration number for a motorcycle owned by a member of certain motorcyclist organizations.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13-619
Annotated Code of Maryland
(1992 Replacement Volume and 1993 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

13-619.

(a) The owner of a motor vehicle, or a lessee of the vehicle under a lease not intended as security, or a director, officer, employee, or partner of a business entity that owns the vehicle who is a member of an organization considered eligible by the Administration may apply to the Administration for the assignment of a special registration number if the vehicle is included in one of the following classes:

- (1) A Class-A (passenger) vehicle;