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SENATE BILL NO. 163

Offered January 16, 1996

A BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-725 of the Code of Virginia, relating to special license plates.

Patrons—Hawkins and Marye; Delegates: Clement and Crouch

Referred to the Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 46.2-725 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 46.2-725. Special license plates, generally.

A. No series of special license plates shall be created or issued by the Commissioner or the Department except as authorized in this article. No special license plates in any series not provided for in this article and no registration decal for any such license plate shall be issued, reissued, or renewed on or after July 1, 1995. However, subject to the limitations contained in subdivisions 1 and 2 of subsection B of this section, the Commissioner may issue special license plates that are combinations of no more than two series of special license plates authorized in this article; the fee for any such combination shall be equal to the sum of the fees for the two series plus the fee for reserved numbers and letters, if applicable. The provisions of subdivisions 1 and 2 of subsection B of this section shall not apply to special license plates that are combinations of two series of special license plates authorized in this article if one of the two combined designs incorporates or includes the international symbol of

- B. Except as otherwise provided in this article:
- 1. No license plates provided for in this article shall be issued until the Commissioner receives at least 350 prepaid applications therefor;
- 2. No additional license plates shall be issued or reissued in any series that, after five or more years of issuance, has fewer than 100 active sets of plates, unless applications therefor again meet the criterion of subdivision 1 of this subsection;
 - 3. All reissued or replacement special license plates shall be subject to a fee of fifteen dollars;
- 4. The annual fee for the issuance of any license plates issued pursuant to this article shall be ten dollars plus the prescribed fee for state license plates. Applications for all special license plates issued pursuant to this article shall be on forms prescribed by the Commissioner. All special license plates issued pursuant to this article shall be of designs prescribed by the Commissioner and shall bear unique letters and numerals, clearly distinguishable from any other license plate designs, and be readily identifiable by law-enforcement personnel.

No other state license plates shall be required on any vehicles bearing special license plates issued under the provisions of this article.

All fees collected by the Department under this article shall be paid by the Commissioner into the state treasury and shall be set aside as a special fund to be used to meet the expenses of the Department.