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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE BILL

No. 698 Session of  
2013

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INTRODUCED BY YAW, MENSCH, RAFFERTY, GREENLEAF, BREWSTER, WAUGH,  
ERICKSON, WOZNIAK, BAKER, SOLOBAY AND BROWNE, MARCH 15, 2013

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REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 15, 2013

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated  
2 Statutes, further providing for special registration plates  
3 generally and for personal registration plates; and making  
4 editorial changes.

5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
6 hereby enacts as follows:

7 Section 1. Sections 1333(b.1), 1341, 1786(h)(2) and 1931 of  
8 Title 75 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are amended  
9 to read:

10 § 1333. Lost, stolen, damaged or illegible registration plate.

11 \* \* \*

12 (b.1) Illegible registration plate.--The department may  
13 reissue a registration plate upon request by a registrant when  
14 it is determined by an authorized representative of the  
15 department or law enforcement that the registration plate is  
16 illegible from a reasonable distance. The department may select  
17 the style of the reissued registration plate and, except in the  
18 case of personal registration plates issued under section 1341  
19 (relating to special registration plates [generally]), the

1 registration plate number.

2 \* \* \*

3 § 1341. Special registration plates [generally].

4 (a) General rule.--Upon request by the applicant, the  
5 department may issue registration plates consisting of any  
6 combination of numbers, letters or numbers and letters. [These  
7 special plates may be issued for special groups or for special  
8 purposes and bear an appropriate designation. Special groups may  
9 charge a fee for authorization to request a registration plate  
10 bearing the name of the group.] They shall have the same force  
11 and effect as regular registration plates. The department may  
12 refuse any combination of letters and numbers for cause and  
13 shall adopt reasonable rules and regulations for the issuance of  
14 the plates and for carrying out the provisions of this section.  
15 The applicant shall comply with all laws and regulations  
16 pertaining to registration including the payment of any  
17 additional fees.

18 (b) Personal registration plates.--Upon request by the  
19 applicant, the department is authorized to issue personal  
20 registration plates. The department is authorized to reissue a  
21 combination of numbers or letters for a personal plate if the  
22 department records reveal that no activity, such as renewal or  
23 transfer of the personal registration plate, has occurred for a  
24 period of five or more consecutive years and provided that the  
25 personal registration plate was never reported as lost or  
26 stolen. Whenever the department reissues an inactive personal  
27 plate, the department may purge its records of all references to  
28 the previous owners of that personal plate. The department  
29 shall, however, note upon its records the reissuance of the  
30 personal plate and to whom the plate was issued. [The special] A

1 personal registration plate may be used only on a passenger car  
2 [or], motorcycle, truck with a registered gross weight of not  
3 more than [10,000] 14,000 pounds, trailer or motor home.

4 (c) Organization registration plates.--Upon request by the  
5 applicant, the department is authorized to issue organization  
6 registration plates. Organization registration plates may be  
7 issued for special groups or for special purposes and bear an  
8 appropriate designation. Special groups may charge a fee for  
9 authorization to request a registration plate bearing the name  
10 of the group. If the vehicle is licensed to a business that is

11 not a member of the special group, the department shall issue  
12 the plate as long as the business owner or officer making  
13 application is a member of that group. An organization  
14 registration plate may be used only on a passenger car or truck  
15 with a registered gross weight of not more than 14,000 pounds or  
16 a motor home.

17 § 1786. Required financial responsibility.

18 \* \* \*

19 (h) Reinstatement of voluntarily surrendered registration  
20 plate and card.--

21 \* \* \*

22 (2) Any registration plate issued under sections 1340  
23 (relating to antique and classic plates) and 1341 (relating  
24 to [personal plate] special registration plates) shall be  
25 returned by the department to the owner of the motor vehicle  
26 upon receipt of proof of financial responsibility.

27 \* \* \*

28 § 1931. [Personal] Special registration plates.

29 The fee for issuance of a [personal] special registration  
30 plate shall be \$20 which shall be in addition to the annual

1 registration fee. Only one payment of the issuance fee shall be  
2 charged for each [personal] special registration issued or  
3 replaced.

4 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 120 days.