



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Division of Motor Vehicles

5707 MacCorkle Avenue, Southeast
Post Office Box 17110
Charleston, West Virginia 25317-0010 • (304) 558-3900
TDD: (800) 742-6991 • (800) 642-9066

Byrd E. White, III
Secretary of Transportation

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Vehicle Services, Regional Office, Call Center
and Receiving & Processing Employees

FROM: Linda Ellis, Director, Vehicle Services 
Cecil Loyd, Director, Regional Operations 

DATE: July 9, 2020

SUBJECT: Special Purpose Vehicles (SB-690)

Per WV Code §17A-13-1 Street-Legal Special Purpose Vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, pneumatic-tired military vehicles, full-size special purpose-built vehicles, including those self-constructed or built by the Original Equipment manufacturer and those that have been modified will be able to be allowed to be registered as well as being titled.

The design for a new SPV Plate has been approved and the division is waiting for the plates to be printed. Until the division receives the plates, a Class G motorcycle temporary plate will be issued. Please follow this procedure:

- Any Special Purpose Vehicle that is already titled, the owner must provide the title number and the DMV-SPV1-TR (Special Purposed Vehicle Certification) form with proof of insurance and \$16.00 fee to receive a temporary plate and registration. Please keep a copy of paperwork as this will be needed when the permanent plates arrive.
- If the Special Purpose Vehicles has not been titled in WV (for whatever reason), the division will need DMV-1-TR (Application for WV Title), DMV-SPV1-TR (Special Purpose Vehicle Certification), out of state title (if applicable) or DMV-1B (VIN Verification) and MB-12/13 (Owner and Purchasing Affidavit) with tax, title, lien (if applicable), plate & registration fee. Please keep a copy of paperwork as this will be needed when the permanent plates arrive.

- **If the Special Purpose Vehicle is a new purchase, the dealer can provide the required paperwork plus the DMV-SPV1-TR and furnish the customer a motorcycle temporary plate and registration. Please keep a copy of paperwork as this will be needed when the permanent plates arrive.**

All Special Purpose Vehicles must be inspected as well.

A copy of the DMV-SPV1-TR (Special Purpose Vehicle Certification), and WV Code §17A-13-1 is attached for your convenience.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

/kh

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 690

SENATORS MAYNARD AND CLINE, *original sponsors*

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect 90 days from
passage]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
2 designated §17A-13-1, relating to the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles;
3 permitting the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles on highways; providing
4 for registration of street-legal special purpose vehicles; establishing licensing and
5 equipment requirements for street-legal special purpose vehicles; defining terms;
6 requiring rulemaking; clarifying that low-speed vehicles are not special purpose vehicles
7 or street-legal special purpose vehicles; and allowing low speed vehicles to cross state
8 routes at traffic lights when the state route does not have a posted speed limit greater than
9 40 miles per hour.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13. STREET-LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES.

§17A-13-1. Street-legal special purpose vehicles; operation on highways; registration procedures; licensing requirements; equipment requirements.

1 (a) Except as required in subsection (c) of this section, an individual may operate a "street-
2 legal special purpose vehicle" on a street or highway.

3 (b) For the purposes of this section:

4 (1) "Special purpose vehicle" includes all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, mini-
5 trucks, pneumatic-tired military vehicles, and full-size special purpose-built vehicles, including
6 those self-constructed or built by the original equipment manufacturer and those that have been
7 modified.

8 (2) "Street-legal special purpose vehicle" is a special purpose vehicle that meets the
9 requirements of this section.

10 (c) An individual may not operate a special purpose vehicle as a street-legal special
11 purpose vehicle on a highway if:

12 (1) The highway is a controlled-access system, including, but not limited to, interstate
13 systems; or

14 (2) The county, municipality, or the Division of Natural Resources where the highway is
15 located prohibits special purpose vehicles.

16 (d) Street-legal special purpose vehicles are prohibited from traveling a distance greater
17 than 20 miles on a highway displaying centerline pavement markings.

18 (e) All street-legal special purpose vehicles are subject to the certificate of title provisions
19 of §17A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

20 (f) Nothing in this section authorizes the operation of a street-legal special purpose vehicle
21 in an area that is not open to motor vehicle use.

22 (g) A street-legal special purpose vehicle may be registered in the same manner as
23 provided for motorcycles pursuant to this chapter.

24 (h) Upon registration of any street-legal special purpose vehicle pursuant to this section,
25 the Division of Motor Vehicles shall issue a registration plate that is of the same size as Class G
26 special registration plates for motorcycles.

27 (i) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a street-legal special purpose vehicle shall
28 comply with the Division of Motor Vehicles' licensing, fee, and other requirements pursuant to this
29 chapter.

30 (j) The owner of a special purpose vehicle being operated as a street-legal special purpose
31 vehicle shall ensure the vehicle is equipped with:

32 (1) One or more headlamps;

33 (2) One or more tail lamps;

34 (3) One or more brake lamps;

35 (4) A tail lamp or other lamp constructed and placed to illuminate the registration plate with
36 a white light;

37 (5) One or more red reflectors on the rear;

38 (6) Amber electric turn system, one on each side of the front;

39 (7) Amber or red electric turn signals;

- 40 (8) A braking system, other than a parking brake;
- 41 (9) A horn or other warning device;
- 42 (10) A muffler and, if required by an applicable federal statute or rule, an emission control
43 system;
- 44 (11) Rearview mirrors on the right and left side of the driver;
- 45 (12) A windshield, unless the operator wears eye protection while operating the vehicle;
- 46 (13) A speedometer, illuminated for nighttime operation;
- 47 (14) For vehicles designed by the manufacturer for carrying one or more passengers, a
48 seat designed for passengers; and
- 49 (15) Tires that have at least 2/32 inches or greater tire tread.
- 50 (16) When owners of a street-legal special purpose vehicle have ensured that such
51 vehicles are equipped as required by this subsection, and those owners obtain a valid registration
52 card and certificate of insurance for such vehicles, those vehicles are eligible to apply for a
53 motorcycle trailer sticker.
- 54 (k) Mini-trucks may not be operated as street-legal special purpose vehicles on highways
55 that have been constructed pursuant to a federal highways program.
- 56 (l) Low-speed vehicles as defined in §17A-1-1 of the code are not considered special
57 purpose vehicles or street-legal special purpose vehicles under this section. However, low-speed
58 vehicles may cross state routes at traffic lights when the state route does not have a posted speed
59 limit greater than 40 miles per hour.
- 60 (m) The Division of Motor Vehicles shall propose rules for legislative approval in
61 accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement this section.