

This brochure is provided as a service by the
Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

PA LICENSE PLATES

a guide

Introduction:

Pennsylvania's Bureau of Motor Vehicles registers approximately 7.5 million vehicles annually. Each of these vehicles receives one of more than 40 different types of registration plates. This brochure describes these plates.

Each picture of a plate is accompanied by a listing of eligibility requirements, a description of the plate, cost information, and information related to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles form which must be completed to acquire the desired plate.

Unless otherwise indicated, Form MV-140 is used to acquire a plate for a vehicle already titled in the Commonwealth. If the vehicle is being titled at the time of registration, the following forms are used:

MV-1, for a vehicle previously titled outside PA or for a new vehicle

MV-4ST, for a vehicle previously titled in PA

If a plate is being transferred, a \$4.00 transfer fee applies.

If a regular series plate is being replaced by a special type of plate, or vice versa, a \$5.00 replacement fee usually applies.

While this brochure does illustrate the majority of the plates issued in Pennsylvania, it is not all-inclusive. Should you have any questions concerning a Pennsylvania registration plate you may write to:

Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Information Services Section
Room 208
Transportation and Safety Building
Harrisburg, PA 17122

Or, you may phone us at one of the following numbers between 7:00 am and 6:30 pm:

Harrisburg—717-787-3130

Philadelphia—215-698-8100

Pittsburgh—412-565-5670

Other Areas of PA—1-800-932-4600

PASSENGER CAR PLATES

Standard



Eligibility: Available to the general public for a motor vehicle designed for carrying passengers (ten or less or up to 15 for ride-sharing).

Description: 6 characters, either all numbers, 1 letter with 5 numbers, or 3 letters with 3 numbers. Most standard plates are 3 letters followed by 3 numbers.

Cost: \$24 annual registration fee

Personalized



Eligibility: A registration plate available to the general public consisting of a combination of up to six letters and/or numbers chosen by the applicant and approved at the discretion of the department.

Description: Up to 6 characters, letters and/or numbers chosen by the applicant.

Cost: One-time issuance fee of \$20 plus \$24 annual registration fee

Form: MV-904 or MV-904TT

Special Organization



Eligibility: Available to members of participating community and service organizations within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Description: 6 or 7 characters (usually 2 letters indicating the organization, followed by 5 numbers). The plate bears both the symbol and name of the organization.

Cost: One-time issuance fee of \$20 plus \$24 annual registration fee

Form: MV-904SO (available through participating organizations)

Note: As of January 1985, plates were available for the following organizations: Firefighter, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, National Guard, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine and Coast Guard Reserves and Masonic Blue Lodge.

Press Photographer



Eligibility: Issued upon request to an applicant employed as a newspaper, newsreel, or television news photographer who uses the vehicle for which the plates are requested for

covering news events in the normal course of the applicant's employment.

Description: 4 or 5 characters ("PP" followed by 2 or 3 numbers). The applicant receives two plates, one for the front and one for the rear of the vehicle.

Cost: One-time issuance fee of \$20 plus \$24 annual registration fee

Form: MV-904

Amateur Radio



Eligibility: Available only to the holder of a valid amateur radio station license issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

Description: Up to 6 characters, letters and/or numbers, according to the applicant's assigned call letters.

Cost: One-time issuance fee of \$20 plus \$24 annual registration fee

Form: MV-904

Disabled Veteran



Eligibility: Issued to an applicant whose disability is certified by the U.S. Veterans' Administration as service-connected. Vehicle for which the plate is used must be titled in the veteran's name or jointly with spouse. Only one plate per applicant.

Description: 7 characters, "DV" followed by 5 numbers.

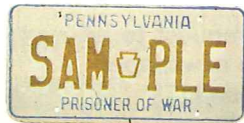
Cost: Totally disabled veterans are exempt from both title and registration fees.

A veteran who lost an eye or a limb pays a title fee and an annual \$10 processing fee in lieu of a registration fee.

Veterans with disabilities other than the above-mentioned pay a title fee and the \$24 annual registration fee.

Form: MV-145

P.O.W.



Eligibility: An ex-prisoner of war whose imprisonment while in the service of the armed forces of the United States is certified by the appropriate branch of the armed forces is eligible to apply for this plate. The vehicle for which the plate is used must be titled in the name of the ex-prisoner of war or jointly with spouse. Only one plate per applicant.

Description: 6 characters, "POW" followed by 3 numbers, 3 numbers followed by "POW", or "POW" followed by a letter and 2 numbers.

Cost: \$10 annual processing fee

Form: MV-150

Congressional Medal of Honor



Eligibility: Issued to a recipient of the Medal of Honor residing in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Description: The first three letters on the Medal of Honor plate will be the recipient's initials, while the last three letters will be "CMH".

Cost: \$10 processing fee.

Form: No special form is required. However, a letter with proof of award is necessary.

Note: Only one plate per applicant.

Handicapped



Eligibility: Issued upon request to any person who:

1. Does not have full use of a leg or both legs or an arm or both arms;
2. is blind;
3. is in loco parentis of a person who qualifies under (1) and (2);
4. is physically limited by a cardiopulmonary condition substantially restricting his/her movements.

The handicapped plate is for a vehicle used by a handicapped person or for a vehicle operated exclusively for the use and benefit of the handicapped. Only one plate per applicant.

Description: 6 or 7 characters ("HP" followed by 4 or 5 numbers). Plate design includes universal handicapped symbol.

Cost: \$24 annual registration fee

Form: MV-145

Classic



Eligibility: Available for a self-propelled vehicle, but not a reproduction thereof, which was manufactured more than ten years prior to the year of application and, because of discontinued production and limited availability, has been determined by the department to be a make and model of significant value to collectors and exhibitors. In addition, the vehicle must have been maintained in or restored to a condition which is substantially in conformity with manufacturer specifications.

Description: 5 numbers.

Cost: \$50 one-time registration fee

Form: MV-11

Note: It is unlawful to operate a vehicle with a classic registration plate for general daily transportation. Permitted use shall be limited to participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, occasional transportation, and similar uses. Occasional transportation is defined in department regulations as meaning no more than one day a week.

Antique



Eligibility: Available for a vehicle manufactured more than 25 years prior to application, but not a reproduction thereof, which has been maintained or restored in conformity with manufacturer specifications.

Description: 1 letter followed by 3 numbers.

Cost: \$50 one-time registration fee

Form: MV-11

Note: It is unlawful to operate a vehicle with an antique registration plate for general daily transportation. Permitted use shall be limited to participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, occasional transportation, and similar uses. Occasional transportation is defined in department regulations as meaning no more than one day a week.

Street Rod



Eligibility: Available for a vehicle, but not a reproduction thereof, with a model year of 1948 or older which has been materially altered or modified by the removal, addition, or substitution of essential parts.

Description: 4 numbers followed by 2 letters ("S" over "R").

- Cost:**
1. Regular plate number—one-time issuance fee of \$20 plus annual registration fee.
 2. Special plate number picked by applicant from normal sequence—\$40 plus annual registration fee.

Form: MV-1 accompanied by MV-426. To pick a special plate number, submit form MV-904 with above forms.

Taxi



Eligibility: Issued to a motor vehicle designed for carrying no more than eight passengers on a call and demand service and used for the transportation of persons for compensation. P.U.C.

approval is required on applications for title and registration.

Description: 7 characters, "TX" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: \$36 annually

MOTORCYCLE AND MOPED PLATES

Moped



Eligibility: Issued upon application to the owner of a motor-driven cycle equipped with operable pedals, a motor rated no more than 1.5 horsepower, a cylinder capacity not exceeding 50 cubic

centimeters, automatic transmission, and a maximum design speed of no more than 25 miles per hour.

Description: 5 characters, any combination of 2 letters with 3 numbers.

Cost: \$6 annual registration fee

Motorcycle



Eligibility: Issued to the owner of a motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels, other than a moped.

Description: 5 characters, any sequence of 1 letter with 4 numbers.

Cost: \$12 annual registration fee

Antique Motorcycle



Eligibility: Available for a motorcycle manufactured more than 25 years ago, but not a reproduction thereof, which has been maintained or restored in conformity with manufacturer specifications.

Description: 3 characters, 1 letter and 2 numbers or 2 numbers and 1 letter.

Cost: \$50 one-time registration fee

Form: MV-11

Note: It is unlawful to operate a vehicle with an antique registration plate for general daily transportation. Permitted use shall be limited to participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, occasional transportation, and similar uses. Occasional transportation is defined in department regulations as meaning no more than one day a week.

Moped Dealer



Eligibility: Issued upon request to registered moped dealers and manufacturers. These plates may be displayed on vehicles operating on highways in lieu of registering each moped individually.

Description: 7 characters, 4 numbers followed by "MPD" vertically on the right.

Cost: \$6 annual registration fee

Form: MV-305A

MV-353

Note: Moped dealer plates may be used on mopeds or they may be used on other vehicles only when the other vehicles are being demonstrated by a moped dealer to a prospective customer.

Motorcycle Dealer



Eligibility: Issued upon request to registered motorcycle dealers and manufacturers. These plates may be displayed on vehicles operating on highways in lieu of registering each motorcycle individually.

Description: 7 characters, 4 numbers followed by "MCD" vertically on the right.

Cost: \$12 annual registration fee

Form: MV-305A

MV-353

Note: Motorcycle dealer plates may be used on motorcycles and mopeds or they may be used on other vehicles only when the other vehicles are being demonstrated by a motorcycle dealer to a prospective customer.

BUS PLATES

Bus



Eligibility: Issued to the owner(s) of a motor vehicle designed for carrying more than ten passengers, including the driver, and used for the transportation of persons and a motor vehicle, other than

a taxicab, designed and used for the transportation of persons for compensation. A bus is not a vehicle used for non-commercial purposes or a vehicle used in a ride-sharing arrangement. P.U.C. certification is required.

Description: 7 characters, always "BA" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: determined by seating capacity

Seating Capacity	Fee
26 or less	\$6 per seat
27-51	\$156 plus \$7.50 per seat over 26
52-up	\$360

School Bus



Eligibility: Issued to the owner(s) of a motor vehicle used exclusively for the transportation of children and no more than five chaperons to or from public, private, parochial, or Sunday school or a related event.

Description: 7 characters, "SA" or "SB" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: \$24 annual registration fee; free registration for school districts.

Omnibus



Eligibility: Issued to the owner(s) of a bus used for the transportation of individuals or private groups at no charge to passengers.

Description: 7 characters, always "OB" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: determined by seating capacity

Seating Capacity	Fee
26 or less	\$6 per seat
27-51	\$156 plus \$7.50 per seat over 26
52-up	\$360

Mass Transit



Eligibility: Issued to the holder of a certificate from the P.U.C. who qualifies as an urban mass transportation system bus. To qualify as an urban mass transportation system bus, the owner

must transport persons on schedule over fixed routes and derive over 80% of its revenue in the county of its principal place of business and counties which border the "home" county.

Description: 7 characters, always "MT" displayed vertically at the left followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: free

Form: MV-729

Apportioned Bus



Eligibility: Issued for a bus used in two or more International Registration Plan member jurisdictions.

Buses used in the transportation of chartered parties are exempt from the apportioned registration program.

Description: 7 characters, "BL" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: registration fees are divided among jurisdictions according to:

1. Mileage traveled in each state
2. Vehicle and load weight and seating capacity

Form: MV-550

MV-551

TRUCK PLATES

Note: Trucks registered at 9,000 pounds or less may be operated with the personalized, special organization, press photographer, amateur radio, disabled veteran, prisoner of war, Congressional Medal of Honor, handicapped, and street rod plates. Annual registration fees for the appropriate truck weight (classes 1-3) apply.

Standard (Commercial)



Eligibility: Issued to the owner of a motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

Description: 7 characters, always "C" followed by another letter and 5 numbers or 5 numbers followed by "C" and another letter.

Cost: The annual registration fee is determined by the vehicle's registered gross weight or combination weight in pounds according to the Schedule of Fees, Form MV-70S.

Apportioned Truck



Eligibility: Issued for a truck used in two or more International Registration Plan jurisdictions that allocate or proportionally register vehicles and are designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property and;

- a) is a power unit having a gross vehicle weight in excess of 26,000 pounds or
- b) is a power unit having three or more axles, regardless of weight.

This plate is also issued for apportioned trailers which travel into the states of California, Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, and Oregon.

Description: 7 characters, always "AA" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: registration fees are divided among jurisdictions according to:

1. Mileage traveled in each state
2. Vehicle and load weight

Form: MV-550

MV-551

Farm Truck



Eligibility: Issued to the owner of a truck being used exclusively upon a farm or farms owned or operated by the registrant of the vehicle or upon highways between the farm and a place of farm-related business.

Description: 7 characters, always "FM" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: \$51 or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the regular truck fee (according to weight), whichever is greater. (Exception—Class 1)

Form: MV-77

MISCELLANEOUS

In-Transit



Eligibility: A temporary license plate used to transport a vehicle from Pennsylvania to another state or jurisdiction. This is a cardboard plate and is valid for 30 days.

Description: 7 numbers, black numbers on white cardboard with a red "T" in each upper corner.

Cost: up to \$10

Form: MV-120

Emergency Vehicle



Eligibility: Available to a vehicle meeting department criteria that answers emergency calls or is designated by the State Police under Section 6106 of the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code as an emergency vehicle.

Description: 7 characters, always "EV" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: free

Form: MV-549

Fire Department



Eligibility: Issued upon request for vehicles operated by municipal and volunteer fire departments.

Description: 7 characters, always "FD" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: free

Form: MV-549

Trailer



Eligibility: Issued to the owner of a vehicle designed to be towed by a motor vehicle.

Description: 7 characters, always "T" followed by another letter and 5 numbers or 5 numbers followed by "T" and another letter.

Cost: The annual fee for registration of a trailer is determined by its registered gross weight.

Registered Gross Weight in Pounds

Registered Gross Weight in Pounds	Fee
3,000 or less	\$ 6
3,001–10,000	\$12
10,001–more	\$27

Note: Trucks or truck-tractors with trailers in excess of 10,000 lbs. must be registered in combination.

Implement of Husbandry



Eligibility: Issued to the owner of a vehicle designed or adapted and determined by the department to be used exclusively for agricultural operations and only incidentally operated

or moved upon highways. Vehicles shall be used exclusively upon a farm or farms owned or operated by the owner of the vehicle or upon highways between:

1. parts of one such farm
2. such farms located not more than 25 miles apart
3. such farm or farms and a place of business located within a radius of 25 miles from the farm for the purpose of buying or selling agricultural commodities or supplies or for delivery, repair, or servicing of the vehicle.

Description: 7 characters, always "IMP" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: \$12 annual fee

Special Mobile Equipment



Eligibility: Issued for a vehicle not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and only incidentally operated or moved over a highway, including but not limited

to ditch digging and well boring apparatus; earth moving and road construction and maintenance machinery; and self-propelled cranes and tractors other than truck tractors.

Description: 7 characters, always "SME" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: \$24 annual fee

Mobile Home



Eligibility: Issued to the owner of a motor vehicle designed or adapted for use as a mobile dwelling or office, except a motor vehicle with a truck camper.

Description: 7 characters, "HC" or "HD" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: The annual fee is determined by the vehicle's registered gross weight according to the following table:

Class	Registered Gross Weight in Pounds	Fee
1	8,000 or less	\$30
2	8,001-11,000	\$42
3	11,001 and up	\$54

Dealer



Eligibility: Issued upon request to registered dealers and manufacturers. These plates may be displayed on vehicles operating on highways in lieu of registering each vehicle individually.

Description: 7 characters, 5 numbers preceded and followed by an "A," "B," "D," or "E," depending on the type of dealership.

Cost: \$24 annual registration fee

Form: MV-305A (Application for additional dealer registration plates)

MV-353 (Application for replacement of lost plates)

Miscellaneous Motor Vehicle Business



Eligibility: These plates are issued upon request and after review of application to businesses which carry out motor vehicle related services, i.e., transporters; repair and towing services; vehicle

salvage dealers; and financiers/repossessors.

Description: 7 characters, either 5 numbers preceded and followed by a "C" or "RS" (rep/ser-towing), "WL" (salvage yard),

"DT" (transporter), or "RE" (repossessor) followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: \$24 annual registration fee

Form: MV-305A

MV-353

Official (Commonwealth)



Eligibility: Issued only for vehicles owned and operated by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Passenger cars are issued plates for both the front and the rear of the vehicle.

Description: "PA" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: free

Official (Municipal)



Eligibility: Available for vehicles operated by townships, boroughs, cities, and municipal authorities.

Description: "MG" followed by 5 numbers.

Cost: free

Legislative

Eligibility: Issued to members of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth.

* **Description:** Plates issued to members of the state Senate—1 or 2 numbers followed by "SEN" and "PA" in a keystone or "PA" in a keystone followed by "SEN" and 1 or 2 numbers.

Plates issued to members of the state House of Representatives—1 to 3 numbers followed by "HR" and "PA" in a keystone or "PA" in a keystone followed by "HR" and 1 to 3 numbers.

Cost: \$20 issuance fee plus \$24 annual registration fee

*Photograph of newly designed plates not available.