

HOUSE BILL 327

R4
HB 513/11 – ENV

4lr0606

By: **Delegates Elliott, Boteler, Dwyer, Eckardt, Frank, Frush, Glass, McComas, McDermott, Norman, Schulz, Serafini, Simmons, Stocksdales, and Vitale**

Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2014
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Single Registration Plate

FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single registration plate to all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of attachment of the registration plate; making certain conforming changes, a certain stylistic change, and a certain technical correction; requiring the publisher of the Annotated Code to make certain corrections; and generally relating to vehicle registration plates.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13–410 and 13–411
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

13–410.

(a) (1) [Except as otherwise provided in this title, when] **WHEN** it registers a vehicle, the Administration shall issue [to the owner:

(i) **One] ONE** registration plate[, if the vehicle is a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle, Class F (tractor) vehicle, or Class G (trailer) vehicle; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle] **TO THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE.**

(2) [However, as to temporary registration, the] **THE** Administration may provide for the issuance of [only] one temporary registration plate for any vehicle.

(b) (1) [Each] **THE** registration plate shall display:

(i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued; and

(ii) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

(2) The registration number may consist of letters, numerals, or both.

(c) (1) This subsection applies only to the following vehicles:

(i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

(ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle registered or capable of registration under § 13–917 of this title; and

(iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

(2) At the option of the registered owner of a vehicle for which A registration [plates are] **PLATE IS** issued under this title, in addition to the information otherwise required to be shown on the registration [plates] **PLATE**, the registration [plates] **PLATE** may display a sticker indicating the name of the county, including Baltimore City, in which the owner of the vehicle resides.

(3) The Administration shall:

(i) Approve a sticker design option that complies with paragraph (2) of this subsection; and

(ii) Offer to each vehicle owner applying for A new or replacement registration [plates] **PLATE** under this title the option to select a sticker that displays the owner's county of residence.

(4) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under this title, the Administration may charge a fee, not to exceed its costs, for issuing or replacing the county sticker offered under this subsection.

(5) A vehicle owner may not display stickers that show a county name other than the owner's county of residence.

(6) A county sticker issued under this subsection may not be placed on a special registration plate or a commemorative registration plate issued under Subtitle 6 of this title.

(d) Registration plates may be reflectorized and shall be manufactured of a material warranted to have a durability of at least 5 years. However, prior to registration plates being reflectorized, the Administration shall obtain approval of the General Assembly through a budget item.

(e) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may order the continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current registration year, and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a vehicle's registration is renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's annual registration fee.

(2) The tab shall be displayed on the [plates] **PLATE** of the vehicle in the manner that the Administrator requires.

(3) The Administrator from time to time shall evaluate the condition of registration plates issued under this title and may provide for the manufacture and issuance of new registration plates. These new registration plates shall be issued and subsequently validated in the manner required by this subtitle.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and 13-619 of this title.

(g) The dimensions of a registration plate issued for a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle shall be 7 inches wide by 4 inches high.

13-411.

(a) [On a vehicle for which two registration plates are required, one plate shall be attached on the front and the other on the rear of the vehicle.

(b) On a vehicle for which one registration plate is required, the] **THE REGISTRATION** plate shall be attached on the:

(1) Front of the vehicle for a Class F (tractor) vehicle; and

(2) Rear of the vehicle for every other vehicle.

[(c)] **(B)** At all times, [each] **THE** registration plate shall be:

(1) Maintained free from foreign materials, including A registration plate ~~[covers]~~ **COVER** as defined in § 13-411.1 of this subtitle, and in a condition to be clearly legible; and

(2) Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

(i) In a horizontal position;

(ii) In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

(iii) In a place and position to be clearly visible.

~~[(d)]~~ **(C)** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, a person may not drive the vehicle on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to the vehicle and displayed on it, as required in this title:

(1) A registration plate ~~[or plates]~~ issued for the vehicle by the Administration for the current registration period; and

(2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

~~[(e)]~~ **(D)** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, the owner of the vehicle may not permit the vehicle to be driven on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required in this title:

(1) A registration plate ~~[or plates]~~ issued by the Administration for the current registration period; and

(2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

~~[(f)]~~ **(E)** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a vehicle used or driven in this State may not display on either its front or rear any expired registration plate issued by any state.

~~[(g)]~~ **(F)** Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a person may not display or permit to be displayed on any vehicle used or driven in this State any registration plate issued for another vehicle or to a person other than the owner of the vehicle.

~~[(h)]~~ **(G)** (1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display vintage registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the vehicle. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle provided for the display of A registration ~~[plates]~~ **PLATE** may only be used for the

display of **THE** current registration [plates] **PLATE** in accordance with subsections (a) [through (c)] **AND (B)** of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

(2) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration plates in lieu of **THE** current registration [plates] **PLATE**, as provided in § 13–936.1 of this title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under subsections (a) [through (c)] **AND (B)** of this section. However, the current registration [plates] **PLATE** shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

[(i)] (H) It is the duty of every police officer to report to the Administration all vehicles operated in violation of this section. The Administration shall verify whether the owner of a reported vehicle has complied with this section.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any reference in the Annotated Code of Maryland to multiple registration plates rendered obsolete by this Act shall be corrected by the publisher of the Annotated Code, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, with no further action required by the General Assembly. The publisher shall adequately describe corrections made under this section in the editor's note following the section affected.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.