Chapter 106

(House Bill 200)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Registration Plate Frames and Borders – Enforcement

FOR the purpose of providing for enforcement only as a secondary offense for a violation involving registration plate frames or borders of the requirement to maintain vehicle registration plates to be free from foreign material and to be clearly legible; and generally relating to the enforcement of vehicle laws involving registration plate frames and borders.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
      Article – Transportation
      Section 13–411(a)
      Annotated Code of Maryland
      (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
      Article – Transportation
      Section 13–411(c)
      Annotated Code of Maryland
      (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

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.

      (c)   **(1)**   At all times, each registration plate shall be:

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

      [(2)**]** **(II)**   Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

      [(i)**]** **1.**   In a horizontal position;

[(ii)**]** **2.**   In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

[(iii)**]** **3.**   In a place and position to be clearly visible.

(2)   **FOR A VIOLATION INVOLVING THE PLACEMENT OF AN OBJECT FRAMING OR BORDERING THE EDGES OF A REGISTRATION PLATE, A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THIS SUBSECTION ONLY AS A SECONDARY ACTION WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER DETAINS A DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE FOR A SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE.**

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.