

HB0332 Baltimore City.pdf

Uploaded by: Adiena Britt

Position: FAV

HB0332 Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Stance: Favorable

Testimony: My name is Adiena Britt and I reside within the 45th District of MD, in Baltimore City. I am writing testimony in Favor of HB0332. The loophole of Maryland Drivers being able to obtain out of state tags and paying a waiver to NOT have insurance needs to be closed. Maryland residents should be required to have their vehicles registered here, in Maryland as well as having insurance. This issue is important to me because in the past, a family member was sandwiched between two vehicles in an “accident” caused by one of these types of drivers. The fact that they don’t have insurance creates a nightmare for the rest of us. This person had a Baltimore City residence but VA registration, and could not supply anything at the scene but this registration on a piece of paper. They had no insurance and we were then responsible for the deductible and have still not been reimbursed for that since 2017. Our insurance company attempted to pursue the matter, but the person has proven elusive. What’s worse is, a police officer showed up at the scene, yet did nothing about the fact that this person was uninsured and had out of state tags though they were a City resident. They caused damage to our vehicle and the vehicle our vehicle was sandwiched in-between. This ONE driver was responsible for causing this strife with two other drivers/vehicles and has basically gotten away with it. We couldn’t even get a lawyer involved because they proved so elusive, it would have wound up costing us additional money just to get them served with any papers for the accident. Please pass this legislation on. It’s important to have everyone held to the same standard and no allow irresponsible people to take shortcuts around the law by using the current loophole. Thank you.

HB332_Shiflett_FAV

Uploaded by: Bill Shiflett

Position: FAV

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today, I stand before you in support of crucial legislation aimed at ensuring fairness and accountability on our roads. The proposal to ban the use of out-of-state automobile registration to evade automobile insurance in Maryland is not merely about enforcing regulations; it's about upholding the responsibility of all automobile owners, ensuring the integrity of our system of accountability and above everything else, protecting the safety of all drivers.

Let's consider the consequences of allowing this practice to persist. When individuals exploit out-of-state registrations to avoid paying for insurance, they are endangering everyone else on the road, putting themselves at risk and openly mocking the law abiding people who comply with the rules and regulations of Maryland. As has been the case many times in Baltimore and throughout our State, motor vehicle crashes often turn innocent parties into victims, that are victimized again by scofflaws that turn our well intentioned laws requiring motor vehicle insurance into chaotic mockery. People that have been seriously injured and those that have suffered unimaginably as a result of people skirting Maryland's laws are often left with significant financial burdens, medical expenses, and emotional trauma, all because someone decided to game the system. And to add insult to injury, people involved in the practice of skirting our laws often flee from the scene of a motor vehicle crash, making the investigation of crashes that much more difficult on law enforcement.

Moreover, this practice undermines the very foundation of our insurance system. Insurance works on the principle of shared risk and responsibility. When individuals skirt their obligations by registering their vehicles out of state, they are essentially shifting the burden onto law-abiding citizens who dutifully pay for their insurance coverage. This creates an unfair advantage for those who choose to disregard the law and penalizes those who adhere to it. Right this moment there are advertisements placed throughout Baltimore, advertising out of state registration for people residing in Maryland. Owners and operators of cars with out of state registrations do so because they would likely be excluded from a Maryland registration because they are unable to secure the proper insurance for a number of reasons. In Maryland, the explosion of cars registered in Virginia has reached a critical level. In Virginia, a vehicle owner can pay a five hundred dollar (\$500.00) "self-insured" fee up front when their vehicle is registered. This fee is to certify to the Virginia DMV that you are "self-insuring" your vehicle and can support the financial impact of an incident in which you are involved with your vehicle. In actuality, the owner does NOT have the ability to remedy the situation. What BPD experiences in this scenario is a driver that often flees the scene of the crash, leaving the burden of the fallout to the other individual(s) involved..

Additionally, actors who have begun registering vehicles within Maryland with out of state registrations are in violation of Maryland's laws regarding this practice.

By enacting this legislation, and making the penalty substantial, Maryland can send a clear message that such behavior will not be tolerated. We are not only protecting our citizens but also promoting honesty and accountability within our community. I cannot count the number of times that people within my district ask for something to be done about the out of state registrations. It was only 2 weeks ago that Delegate Addison and I were speaking about this issue and the importance of this new legislation. Every automobile operated in Maryland that is required by law to be insured, shall have that insurance, and no operator or owner shall obtain an out of state registration for the purpose of skirting that responsibility.

Furthermore, this legislation is a matter of economic fairness. When individuals evade insurance requirements, it leads to higher premiums for everyone else. The financial strain placed on insurance companies due to uninsured motorists ultimately gets passed down to law-abiding policyholders in the form of increased premiums. By closing this loophole, we can help stabilize insurance costs for Maryland residents and ensure that everyone abides by the laws of Maryland.

Some may argue that this legislation will be burdensome for out-of-state residents who frequently visit Maryland or have temporary work assignments in the state. However, exemptions and accommodations can be made to address legitimate concerns while still upholding the integrity of our insurance laws. The goal is not to inconvenience anyone but rather to ensure that every owner of a vehicle operated in Maryland has the required insurance, protecting fellow drivers as required.

We in Law Enforcement stand in frustration with your constituents. We are also awaiting the addition to our tool box the necessary tools to begin the task of making Maryland a safer place for citizens to drive, and to serve notice to any and all that seek to exploit the laws of Maryland, that this will not be tolerated as the long arm of Maryland law will reach far and wide in pursuit of justice.

In conclusion, I urge the support this very important legislation to ban the use of out-of-state automobile registration to evade the responsibility for automobile insurance in Maryland. This is not just a matter of legality; it's a matter of fairness, safety, and responsibility. Finally, it is the duty of legislators to propose and enact thoughtful, effective laws that protect the citizens of Maryland, and those that visit our state.

I will take questions from the committee if the committee desires.

Thank you.
Captain Bill Shiflett
Executive Officer, Northeast District
Baltimore Police Department

Testimony HB0332 Ramos.pdf

Uploaded by: Councilwoman Odette Ramos

Position: FAV



Odette Ramos

Baltimore City Councilwoman

District 14

(410) 396 - 4814

odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov

100 N. Holliday Street, Room 506

Baltimore MD 21202

Testimony
HB0332 Baltimore City – Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration

February 15, 2024
FAVORABLE

Honorable Chair Korman and Distinguished Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

I am writing to urge your support for **HB0332, Baltimore City – Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration.**

HB0332 would provide Baltimore City with the authority to tow, remove, or impound vehicles owned by new Maryland residents who fail to register their vehicle with the Motor Vehicle Administration and display valid registration plates issued by the Administration.

This bill works towards closing the decade old loophole of our neighboring state of Virginia which does not require car insurance for state vehicle tags, even for out-of-state residents. HB0332 is especially important since there has been a recent uptick in the number of Baltimoreans driving with Virginia tags. Baltimoreans could be faced with significant challenges if they are in an accident with a vehicle that is not covered by insurance.

Please issue a favorable report for HB0332.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. I can be reached on 410-396-4814 or via email at odette.ramos@baltimorecity.gov.

Respectfully Submitted:

Odette Ramos
Baltimore City Councilwoman, District 14

HB332 Fact Sheet.pdf

Uploaded by: Jackie Addison

Position: FAV

House Bill 332 Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration Fact Sheet

With exception to non-residents, Maryland law requires that new residents of Maryland must title and register their vehicles within sixty (60) days. Examples of non-resident exceptions under statute include students, military members, temporary employees, and visitors.

While the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) shall only register Maryland customers, the Commonwealth of Virginia permits non-residents to register their vehicles with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

In January 2024, the MVA identified nearly 34,000 individuals with Maryland addresses with vehicles registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The MVA issued correspondence that customers may be in violation of Maryland law (Transportation Article §13-402), and would need to take immediate corrective action.

What enforcement options are available to the MVA?

- **Citation – TR § 13-403(a)(1):** the MVA may issue a traffic citation that carries a pre-set fine of \$290, or a maximum fine of \$500.
- **Tag Removal – TR § 12-110 (a)(3):** the MVA has the authority to take possession of another jurisdiction plate that is displayed illegally. The MVA must investigate and have a reasonable basis for concluding that the plate is in violation of TR § 13-401(c) and § 13-402(a) registration requirements.

What due diligence is performed?

Upon receipt of an out-of-state registration complaint, MVA Investigations will query the license plate using the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) to identify the vehicle owner. The investigator will visit the address on record to contact the owner, and inform them that they have 60 days (from the date of contact) to register their vehicle with the MVA. If the owner is unavailable or refuses to respond, the Investigator will leave an MVA Form IS-034.

After 60 days, the Investigator will verify whether the customer has complied. If the customer has failed to update their registration, the MVA may issue a traffic citation.

In the event that a customer repeatedly refuses to comply, the MVA may seize the vehicle license plates with the assistance of local/state law enforcement. In Calendar Year 2023, the MVA investigated ten complaints involving 14 Virginia license plates.

The MVA has also received feedback from at least 1 local law enforcement jurisdiction authorizes their officers when pulling a vehicle over for other traffic enforcement issues, to question the owner about the residential address and use information from NLETS to identify when the out of state license was obtained to cite the driver with a violation of failing to register their vehicle in Maryland.

How does the MVA enforce the advertisement of out of state tags?

Upon being notified or identifying an individual / company advertising the ability to obtain an out of state tag, MVA Investigations immediately contacts the number / address and begins an investigation. If it is determined that a Maryland title service company is advertising this service, the MVA will order the company to remove their signage. If there is no action, MVA Investigations will remove the sign and refer to Business Licensing for administrative action, which could include fines up to \$1,000 per violation, license suspensions, etc. For non-licensed companies MVA Investigations will inform the individual of the illegal nature of their action and ask them to comply with Maryland law.

Sample IS-034 Form

New to Maryland?

Welcome to Maryland! All new residents of Maryland should obtain a Maryland Driver's License and title their vehicle within 60 days of relocating to the state.

myMVA your way! Register for an account so you can access your MVA info quickly and easily.

Get started today!
<https://mva.maryland.gov/about-mva/Pages/new-to-maryland.aspx>



Need a Non-Resident Permit?

A non-resident permit enables a licensed driver to maintain and operate a vehicle with out-of-state registration for more than sixty (60) days in Maryland, without titling and registering it here. **Eligible applicants include:**

- Students
- Military
- Temporary Employee
- Medical Visitors

Are you eligible? Learn more here:
<https://mva.maryland.gov/about-mva/Pages/info/27300/27300-60T.aspx>



IS-034 (04-23)



Are you living in Maryland?

Register your vehicle!

All Maryland residents are required to have their vehicles titled and registered with the state of Maryland.

You're a Maryland resident if you:

1. Maintain a permanent home in Maryland
2. Own, lease, or rent a primary place of residence in Maryland
3. Reside in Maryland for more than one year, regardless of your home location
4. Maintain a branch office or warehouse facility in Maryland
5. File as a Maryland resident for income tax purposes

Start your vehicle registration here:
<https://mymva.maryland.gov/go/web/TitleRegPreApp>



Letter of Support, Councilman Conway.pdf

Uploaded by: Jackie Addison

Position: FAV



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 550 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 396-4830 • mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov

TO: Chair Stephanie Smith; First Vice Chair Robbyn Lewis; Second Vice Chair Elizabeth Embry; members of the Baltimore City Delegation
FROM: Mark Conway (District 4, Baltimore City Council; Chair, Public Safety and Government Operations Committee)
RE: HB332 (Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration)
POSITION: SUPPORT

I am writing today to offer my support for HB332 (Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration), which would authorize Baltimore City to tow, remove, or impound a vehicle owned by a new resident of Maryland who fails to register the vehicle with the Motor Vehicle Administration and display valid registration plates issued by the MVA within 60 days of their move into the state.

In my district, and in Baltimore City as a whole, vehicles with out-of-state plates speed through red lights, accrue hundreds of dollars in speeding camera tickets, and take away street parking spaces from law-abiding constituents. However, these drivers are often Maryland residents who have discovered they can game the system by purchasing out-of-state plates or not changing their out-of-state tags when they move to the state. This makes it harder to enforce traffic laws on them, due to issues between states like lack of ticket reciprocity. When a car with Virginia plates gets caught by the speed cameras on I-83 in Baltimore, they don't have to worry about paying the related fine because the fine is directed to the State of Virginia, where their tags are registered, and because they no longer live in Virginia, they do not get caught, towed, or impounded because of the unpaid fine.

This accountability loophole puts citizens at risk, especially with Virginia plate-holders, because Virginia does not require auto liability insurance. When Marylanders get into a car accident with a faux-Virginia plate-holder, they are often out of luck in seeking recompense and may be on the hook for any damages.

This bill would close the loophole and gives the City the power to tow, remove, or impound any new resident of the State of Maryland who fails to register the vehicle with the MVA and display valid registration within 60 days of their move. These changes have the potential to dramatically curb issues we see with ticket reciprocity, unpaid fines, and insurance claims.

I urge a favorable report on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Conway, Jr.

Letter of Support, Councilman Glover.pdf

Uploaded by: Jackie Addison

Position: FAV

Delegate Jackie Addison

317 Lowe House Office Building
6 Bladen Street
Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone 410-841-3551

Bill Title: Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Good afternoon, esteemed members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Antonio Glover, proudly representing the District 13 of the Baltimore City Council. Today, I am here to advocate for the support of **House Bill 332** addressing Improper Registration for out-of-state vehicles.

The primary objective of this bill is to ensure that drivers in the State of Maryland adhere to the regulations set forth by the Motor Vehicles Administration. It aims to eliminate any potential misconduct associated with the use of tags from Virginia. We have observed a noticeable surge in the prevalence of Virginia license plates within the City of Baltimore. A recent MarketWatch article highlights a concerning aspect: Virginia does not mandate individuals to carry auto insurance for legal driving.

This influx of Virginia tags has become financially enticing for drivers in Baltimore City and across Maryland. The allure of saving money appears to be encouraging a dangerous trend across the State. As reported, some are viewing this as a cost-effective alternative to following the proper procedures outlined by the MVA.

Beyond the financial incentives, this practice poses significant risks. Many second-hand vendors dealing with Virginia tags merely request a title and a driver's license without subjecting the vehicle to any inspection, which stands in stark contrast to the procedures in Maryland.

This Bill does four things:

1. Ensuring Regulatory Adherence: The bill aims to ensure that drivers in Maryland comply with regulations set by the Motor Vehicles Administration.
2. Addressing Misconduct: It seeks to eliminate potential misconduct associated with the use of out-of-state tags, particularly those from Virginia.
3. Financial Disincentive for Improper Registration: The legislation intends to discourage the financial allure of using Virginia tags, which might lead to dangerous trends across the state.
4. Safeguarding Road Integrity: The proposal is focused on safeguarding road integrity by mitigating risks associated with improper registration practices, such as minimal inspections by second-hand dealers.



Antonio Glover
Baltimore City Council Member
District 13

Letter of Support, Jack Young.pdf

Uploaded by: Jackie Addison

Position: FAV

Bernard C. 'Jack' Young
Former Mayor Baltimore City
934 N. Central Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Dear Hon. Delegate Addison

I'm sending this letter of support for HB 332. The increase of Virginia Tags in the Streets of Baltimore is a great concern of mine and of the drivers in Baltimore that are paying the highest insurance premiums in the state. There are many of these cars driving the streets of Baltimore that cause accidents that results in hit and runs because most of them have no insurance.

The State of Maryland law requires your vehicle to be insured at all times, including when getting a new registration or transferring from another state. Further more proof of Virginia residency is required to register a vehicle in Virginia and that includes two forms of proof such as a signed lease, mortgage statement or deed. I firmly believe that the safety of the citizens of not only Baltimore but the entire state of Maryland simply because those vehicles haven't been properly inspected in Maryland.

Those business entities that are advertising that they can provide Virginia license plate services should be investigated and made to cease their operations. I can go on and on about this issue but I'll stop right here.

Hon. Delegate Addison thank you for taking the lead on this bill and I encourage all of the Delegates to join you in sponsoring this important legislation. If you need any further information please don't hesitate to contact me at bernard0620@gmail.com or by calling me at 4433715728

Former Mayor of Baltimore City
Bernard C.'Jack' Young

Letter of Support, Mayor's Office.pdf

Uploaded by: Jackie Addison

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0332

February 16, 2024

TO: Members of Baltimore City House Delegation
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 332 - Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration
POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Lewis and Members of the Committee—please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 332.

HB 332 authorizes the City of Baltimore to tow and impound vehicles that are not properly registered in the State of Maryland by residents who have lived in the State for more than 60 days. Existing law already requires new residents who have moved to Maryland to register their vehicles within the state within this time period. In Baltimore City and around the State, there has been an increase in the prevalence of out-of-state license plates. The statewide registration requirement is in place to ensure that vehicle owners are in compliance with critical state motor vehicle laws like vehicle emissions testing, insurance requirements, to ensure compliance with administrative penalties for citations, and other important measures intended to promote public safety.

During calendar year 2023, Baltimore City Department of Transportation's Safety Division issued 34,555 parking citations to vehicles with out-of-state tags. Over 56% (19,486) of the vehicles cited with out of state tags were from one state alone. Additionally, BCDOT Safety Division reports flagging 3,723 vehicles during calendar year 2023 as having no tags displayed at the time of the violation.

The State and the City both have vested interest in determining that vehicles are registered properly to owners who maintain permanent residence within the State of Maryland. The passage of HB 332 will provide Baltimore City the tools necessary to enforce laws that are important to ensuring our public streets are safe and our air quality is clean.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a favorable report on HB 332.

Written Testimony Delegation- HB332.pdf

Uploaded by: Jackie Addison

Position: FAV

JACQUELINE T. ADDISON
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

Environment and
Transportation Committee

Subcommittees

Natural Resources, Agriculture,
and Open Space

Motor Vehicles and Transportation

Local Government and
Bi-County Agencies



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 317
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800-492-7122 Ext. 3551
Jackie.Addison@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Environment and Transportation

Date: March 7, 2024

Sponsor: Delegate Jackie Addison

Position: Favorable Vote

Title: HB332 Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Good Afternoon Chairman Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and members of the Environment and Transportation Committee.

For the record, my name is Delegate Jackie T. Addison, and I am here to testify on House Bill 332 Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration. This bill aims to authorize Baltimore City to remove, tow, or impound vehicles that have not been properly registered with the MVA with 60-days of residency. House Bill 332 would apply to new residents moving into Baltimore City. Specifically, those who fail to register the vehicle with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and display valid registration plates in the State of Maryland. Thus, aiding in the regulation of ghost tags in Baltimore City.

According to Frankford Towing, located in the 45th District, 20% of all cars in impound have VA tags. A representative informed me that 5 years ago when they would look up the vin #'s on the MVA website, it would say that there was no record of the vehicles. Now it shows seemingly random Maryland addresses. In the past year there has been an uptick in both VA and Texas tags that cannot be properly accounted for.

Upon speaking with representatives at TED'S Towing Service, another company located in my legislative district, it was estimated that 150 of their impounded/towed vehicles had VA tags. All of the vehicles were requested to be towed by police.

The presence of Virginia tags in Baltimore City has contributed to jurisdictional conflict with law enforcement and the MVA. Several pop-up shops have started appearing around the city advertising the sale of Virginia Tags. They require no emissions testing, only liability insurance, and offer no way for the MVA to track those who get into car accidents without insurance or commit crimes. By helping to keep track of these instances, the bill would assist in abating the frequency of such occurrences and put the revenue back into the State of Maryland.

Thank you, Chairman Korman and members of the Committee. I respectfully request a favorable report on HB332.

Respectfully,

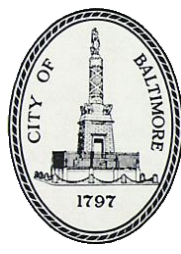
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie T. Addison". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Delegate Jackie T. Addison

HB0332-ET-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

HB0332

March 7, 2024

TO: Members of Environment and Transportation Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: House Bill 332 - Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

POSITION: Support

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 332.

HB 332 authorizes the City of Baltimore to tow and impound vehicles that are not properly registered in the State of Maryland by residents who have lived in the State for more than 60 days. Existing law already requires new residents who have moved to Maryland to register their vehicles within the state within this time period. In Baltimore City and around the State, there has been an increase in the prevalence of out-of-state license plates. The statewide registration requirement is in place to ensure that vehicle owners are in compliance with critical state motor vehicle laws like vehicle emissions testing, insurance requirements, to ensure compliance with administrative penalties for citations, and other important measures intended to promote public safety.

During calendar year 2023, Baltimore City Department of Transportation's Safety Division issued 34,555 parking citations to vehicles with out-of-state tags. Over 56% (19,486) of the vehicles cited with out of state tags were from one state alone. Additionally, BCDOT Safety Division reports flagging 3,723 vehicles during calendar year 2023 as having no tags displayed at the time of the violation.

The State and the City both have vested interest in determining that vehicles are registered properly to owners who maintain permanent residence within the State of Maryland. The passage of HB 332 will provide Baltimore City the tools necessary to enforce laws that are important to ensuring our public streets are safe and our air quality is clean.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a favorable report on HB 332.

Rodriguez_HB_332_UNF

Uploaded by: Jason Rodriguez aka Jay "Gemini"

Position: UNF

Jason Rodriguez
618 Markham Road
Baltimore, MD 21229
productoftheenvironment@gmail.com
(443) 682-5586

March 5th, 2024

Delegate Marc Korman
Chairman Environment and Transportation Committee
House Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Subject: Opposition to HB0332 - Baltimore City – Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration

Dear Committee Chairman Delegate Marc Korman, Vice Chairman Delegate Regina T. Boyce and distinguished Committee Members,

I am submitting my testimony to express my concerns and opposition to HB0332, which aims to discourage Maryland motorists from registering their vehicles in Virginia. While I understand the intent behind this legislation, I believe this bill raises significant legal and constitutional issues that deserve careful consideration.

****1. Interstate Commerce Violations:****

The proposed bill may be susceptible to legal challenges based on violations of the Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. Restricting Maryland residents from registering their vehicles in Virginia, where it is legal to do so, could be interpreted as an impermissible burden on interstate commerce.

****2. Violation of Liberty and Civil Rights:****

Subjecting Virginia-tagged vehicles to unwarranted stops and citations in Maryland, without probable cause of a motor vehicle law violation, raises concerns about potential violations of individual liberties and civil rights. Such actions could be seen as an infringement on the Fourth Amendment rights protecting citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures.

****3. Right to Travel:****

There is a fundamental right to travel freely within the United States without undue restrictions. Any law that targets residents or non-residents based on their choice of vehicle registration may be challenged on the grounds that it interferes with this constitutional right.

****4. Impact on Military Personnel:****

Military personnel often reside in a state for extended periods due to duty assignments. Forcing them to change their vehicle registration within a limited timeframe could be impractical and burdensome. This may also raise concerns under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA).

****5. Impact on College Students:****

Similarly, college students residing in Maryland for educational purposes may retain out-of-state vehicle registrations for periods longer than 90 days. Forcing them to change their registration within a short timeframe may pose practical challenges and could be seen as arbitrary.

****6. Impact on Out-of-State Workers:****

According to the Maryland Department of Planning more than 183,000 out-of-state residents commute to the great State of Maryland to earn a living. Many of these workers commute with their own out-of-state vehicles or with out-of-state company vehicles. Many of these out-of-state residents stay in Maryland for extended periods at a time. HB0332 may be perceived as burdensome on these commuters and businesses who have chosen to conduct business in the State of Maryland and its governing counties.

****7. Potential Predatory Nature:****

The proposed legislation may be perceived as targeting specific groups without a compelling state interest. This raises questions about the fairness and equity of the law, potentially leading to claims of discriminatory enforcement.

Additionally, representatives from Baltimore City are guilty of spreading misinformation about Virginia registered motorists. According to the Code of Virginia §46.2-472 (Coverage of owner's policy), every motor vehicle registered in Virginia must carry a minimum of \$50,000 bodily injury to or death of one person in any one accident and, \$100,000 of bodily injury to or death of two or more persons in any one accident, and to a limit of \$25,000 because of injury to or destruction of property of others in any one accident. Vehicle owners who are uninsured or have not paid the Uninsured Motorist Vehicle fee will have their driving and vehicle registration privileges suspended. To be reinstated, a person registering a vehicle in Virginia must pay a \$600 statutory fee, file a Financial Responsibility Insurance Certificate (SR-22) with DMV for three years, and pay a reinstatement fee, if applicable. Also, the State of Maryland already regulates and enforces out-of-state vehicle registrations by notifying the offending vehicle registration owner. I personally know of Maryland residents who have received notices from MVA in reference to this very issue and can provide documentation as proof upon request.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the implications of HB0332 on the constitutional rights of Maryland residents, non-Maryland residents, and others who may be affected. A careful review of the legal and constitutional issues highlighted above is essential to ensure that any legislation enacted is both fair and constitutionally sound.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I trust that you will give due consideration to the concerns raised.

Sincerely,

Jason Rodriguez

HB0332 - MVA - Baltimore City Out of State Vehicle

Uploaded by: Pilar Helm

Position: INFO

March 7, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – House Bill 332 – Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of information for the Committee's consideration on House Bill 332.

House Bill 332 authorizes Baltimore City to tow, remove, or impound a vehicle that City officials determine to be a new State resident that has failed to properly register with and display valid Maryland registration tags issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

The MVA currently offers an excise tax rebate to new Maryland residents that register their vehicles within the first sixty (60) days of residency. The excise tax rebate is equal to any previously paid excise or sales tax in another state of residence and applied against taxes owed in Maryland. If the previous state of residence charged 6% or more, new residents are charged the minimum rate required under Maryland law. The sixty-day timeline for the MVA begins once a customer obtains their Driver's License or Identification Card. Additionally, if a vehicle title and registration are not transferred within sixty days of that date, the full excise tax is assessed. The MVA is unable to identify an out-of-state vehicle owner's residency status until such paperwork showing ownership is presented to the MVA.

The MVA has a reporting mechanism for concerned individuals to identify vehicles that do not appear to have valid Maryland registration tags. When such a report is made, the MVA dispatches an investigator to contact the vehicle owner and determine if they are a resident who does not have an exemption for vehicle registration. The exceptions to the requirement for registration include active-duty military members, university students, temporary employees, and medical visitors. Since Baltimore City is located near military bases, universities, international corporations, and medical facilities, there are a number of possible long-term residents that could qualify for such an exemption. When an MVA investigator identifies that a vehicle owner does not qualify for such an exemption, they issue a 60-day warning to take corrective action.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of House Bill 332.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090