

Dear Baltimore County Delegation,

I'm writing to express my strong support for HB1495, the Out-of-State Vehicles Improper Registrations bill. This bipartisan initiative is crucial for equipping Baltimore County with the necessary tools to address the concerning issue of Maryland residents exploiting the Virginia license plate loophole to evade Maryland insurance requirements.

It is estimated that as many as 34,000 Marylanders are registering their cars in Virginia to avoid Maryland taxes and insurance. This has cost the state up to \$10 million in lost revenue and is incentivizing Maryland residents to register their vehicles through Virginia. The fact that businesses in the Baltimore area have resorted to advertising the sale of Virginia tags underscores the urgency of implementing measures to curb this abuse.

HB1495 proposes a targeted approach by allowing Baltimore County to tow vehicles with improper tags, while safeguarding legitimate cases such as military personnel, travel nurses, and college students. This bill is only aimed at people who intentionally abuse this loophole in order to avoid Maryland law and drive on our roadways without insurance.

Eastern Baltimore County, in particular, has been grappling with this issue, despite efforts by the MVA to address it through warning letters and license plate seizures. However, the current solution of seizing improperly registered Virginia license plates has proven ineffective, as individuals simply procure new tags to circumvent the law.

Under HB1495, new residents are afforded a 60-day grace period to register their vehicles with the MVA, ensuring a reasonable transition period. After this period, Baltimore County will have the authority to take necessary enforcement actions such as towing, removing or impounding vehicles possessed by individuals with improper tags if they choose to do so.

HB1495 represents a comprehensive and targeted solution to a pressing issue facing Maryland's roadways and I will continue to work hard in the General Assembly for this legislation to be adopted.

Sincerely,

Josh Sines

