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**HB0212**

February 12, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** House Bill 0212 – Vehicle Laws- Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 0212.

HB 212 establishes a process to bring vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly registered in another state into compliance with the Maryland Vehicle Law by applying a civil fine for each day a vehicle remains improperly registered after a warning is issued and allowing for the immobilization or impoundment of a vehicle if it remains improperly registered after 120 days following a warning.

Current law requires new residents who have moved to Maryland to register their vehicles with the state within 60 days of changing residency. 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. The public safety component of the need for vehicles to be properly registered cannot be understated. In Baltimore City between 2023 and 2025 7,075 non-fatal crashes involved out of state (VA specifically) plates. 14 fatal crashes also involved out of state plates (VA).

During calendar year 2024, Baltimore City Department of Transportation's Safety Division issued 51,863 parking citations to vehicles with out-of-state tags. 41% (21,044) of the vehicles cited with out of state tags were from one state alone. During calendar year 2025, 68,224 parking citations were issued to out of state vehicles. 48% (32,8666) were from one state alone. Additionally, for comparison purposes and clarity on lost revenue for Baltimore City, **81.667%** of camera citations issued to VA tags in 2024 and 63.268% in 2025 are outstanding. This is in comparison to only 23.2% of outstanding camera citations for MD tags in 2024 and 26.5% outstanding in 2025. While the BCA is not intending for this legislation to bring in a significant amount of revenue, a

significant part of the purpose of having automated citations for speeding and red-light violations is to deter behavior. If residents with improperly registered vehicles are not faced with the need to pay for the violations they commit, then the behavioral deterrent has no impact.

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. This legislation removes uncertainty and creates a well-defined process that provides offending vehicle owners with multiple opportunities to come into compliance.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 212.