

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1495 (Delegate Nawrocki, *et al.*)
Environment and Transportation

Baltimore County - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

This bill authorizes Baltimore County to tow, remove, or impound a vehicle owned by a new resident of the State who fails to register the vehicle with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and display valid registration plates within 60 days of residency in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill does not materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not likely materially affect Baltimore County operations or finances, as discussed below.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Unless otherwise exempt, each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer driven on a highway in the State must be registered with MVA. Registration is not required for a vehicle owned by a new resident of the State during the first 60 days of residency if the vehicle displays a valid out-of-state registration. If a motor vehicle required to be registered is not registered, a person may not park the unregistered motor vehicle on any public alley, street, or highway or on private property used by the public in general, including parking lots of shopping centers, condominiums, apartments, or town house developments. Also, a person may not drive or attempt to drive a vehicle on any highway in the State without a valid registration as required from MVA.

Local Expenditures: The Baltimore County Police Department (BCPD) advises that two additional staff, at an estimated cost of \$187,000 for fiscal 2025 and at least \$200,000 annually thereafter, are needed to handle the administrative duties involved in the additional monitoring, towing, and impoundment of motor vehicles under the bill. BCPD advises that, under its supervision, private towing companies are used to tow accident, abandoned, and impounded motor vehicles, including handling the notification procedures and process involved in the sale of an abandoned vehicle under the Maryland Vehicle Law. While the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) acknowledges that, absent an existing tracking or tagging system that can monitor and track motor vehicles that have out-of-state registration plates for more than 60 days, additional resources may be necessary to fully implement the bill. Nevertheless, DLS advises that this level of staffing is not likely necessary and further advises that, as the bill is authorizing in nature, robust enforcement is not required.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: SB 1164 (Senator Jennings) - Rules.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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km/ljm

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