
By: **Delegate Rudolph**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 1998

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 23, 1998

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles - Staggered Registration System**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the scope of certain provisions that authorize the
4 Motor Vehicle Administration to adopt a system of staggered vehicle registration
5 for certain classes of motor vehicles to make these provisions applicable to all
6 classes of vehicles; making certain stylistic changes; and generally relating to
7 the registration of motor vehicles.

8 BY adding to
9 Article - Transportation
10 Section 13-909
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article - Transportation
15 Section 13-912
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

1 **Article - Transportation**

2 13-909.

3 (A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE
4 ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT A SYSTEM OF STAGGERED REGISTRATION FOR ANY
5 MOTOR VEHICLE CLASS.

6 (B) (1) DURING THE REGISTRATION PERIOD IN WHICH THE SYSTEM IS
7 INITIATED, VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS MAY BE ISSUED FOR PERIODS VARYING FROM 7
8 MONTHS TO 18 MONTHS WITH FEES PRORATED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF
9 MONTHS FOR WHICH THE REGISTRATION IS ISSUED.

10 (2) VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES OR VALIDATION TABS SHALL BE
11 ISSUED AND DISPLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY THE
12 ADMINISTRATION.

13 (3) ANY NEW REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL ISSUED DURING THE YEAR
14 MAY BE ISSUED INITIALLY FOR OTHER THAN A 12-MONTH PERIOD TO FACILITATE AN
15 EQUAL VOLUME OF MONTHLY ISSUANCES AND THE REGISTRATION FEE SHALL BE
16 PRORATED FOR THE PERIOD ISSUED.

17 (4) FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING RELATIVELY UNIFORM WORK
18 LOADS, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL EVALUATE MONTHLY VOLUMES OF
19 REGISTRATION RENEWALS FROM TIME TO TIME AND ANY PORTION OF A MONTHLY
20 ISSUANCE MAY BE RESCHEDULED BY APPLYING A DIFFERENT EXPIRATION DATE
21 AND PRORATING THE FEE ACCORDINGLY.

22 (5) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL REFUND A REGISTRATION FEE ON
23 SURRENDER OF A REGISTRATION CARD AND UNUSED REGISTRATION PLATES BY THE
24 OWNER AS PROVIDED UNDER § 13-938 OF THIS SUBTITLE ONLY IF THE RETURN IS
25 MADE PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR WHICH
26 THE APPLICATION FOR REFUND IS MADE.

27 (6) WHEN THE ADMINISTRATION ASSESSES A PRORATED FEE, IT SHALL
28 BE CALCULATED BY MULTIPLYING ONE-TWELFTH OF THE APPLICABLE FEE BY THE
29 NUMBER OF MONTHS FOR WHICH THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL IS MADE AND
30 ADJUSTING THIS AMOUNT TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR AMOUNT.

31 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND
32 OPERATE A STAGGERED REGISTRATION SYSTEM AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS
33 SECTION.

34 13-912.

35 (a) When registered with the Administration, every passenger car and station
36 wagon, except as otherwise provided in this part, is a Class A (passenger) vehicle.

37 (b) For each Class A (passenger) vehicle, the annual registration fee is:

1 (1) For a vehicle with a manufacturer's shipping weight of 3,700 pounds
2 or less -- \$27.00; and

3 (2) For a vehicle with a manufacturer's shipping weight of more than
4 3,700 pounds -- \$40.50.

5 [(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this subtitle to the contrary, the
6 Administration may adopt a system of staggered registration for the following motor
7 vehicle classes: A, B, C, D, E (up to 7,000 pounds maximum gross vehicle weight), J,
8 L, 1A (dealer), 1B (motorcycle dealer), 1C (trailer dealer), 2 (recycler), 3 (finance
9 company), 4 (mobile equipment), 5 (transporter), and M.

10 (d) (1) During the registration period in which the system is initiated,
11 vehicle registrations may be issued for periods varying from 7 months to 18 months
12 with fees prorated according to the number of months for which the registration is
13 issued.

14 (2) Vehicle registration plates or validation tabs shall be issued and
15 displayed in accordance with a schedule established by the Administrator.

16 (3) Any new registration or renewal issued during the year may be
17 issued initially for other than a 12-month period to facilitate an equal volume of
18 monthly issuances. The registration fee will be prorated for the period issued.

19 (4) For the purpose of maintaining relatively uniform work loads,
20 monthly volumes of registration renewals shall be evaluated from time to time and
21 any portion of a monthly issuance may be rescheduled by applying a different
22 expiration date and prorating the fee accordingly.

23 (5) The refund of registration fees on surrender of the registration card
24 and unused registration plates provided in § 13-938 of this article shall be made to
25 the owner only if the return is made prior to the expiration date of the registration
26 period for which application for refund is made.

27 (6) Whenever a prorated fee is assessed, the amount shall be calculated
28 by multiplying one-twelfth of the applicable fee by the number of months for which
29 the issuance or renewal is made and the resultant figure shall be adjusted to the
30 nearest dollar amount.

31 (e) The Administration may adopt rules and regulations to implement and
32 operate a staggered registration system.]

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
34 October 1, 1998.

