
By: **Senator Baker**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 1998

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Classified Vehicles - Staggered Registration**

3 FOR the purpose of expanding the authority of the Motor Vehicle Administration to
4 adopt a system of staggered vehicle registration by authorizing the
5 Administration to implement staggered registration for all motor vehicle
6 classes; applying to all vehicle classes provisions relating to the staggered
7 registration of certain vehicle classes; authorizing the Administration to adopt
8 regulations to implement and operate staggered registration for all vehicle
9 classes; making a technical change; and generally relating to the staggered
10 registration of motor vehicles.

11 BY adding to
12 Article - Transportation
13 Section 13-909
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
17 Article - Transportation
18 Section 13-912
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1997 Supplement)

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

23 **Article - Transportation**

24 13-909.

25 (A) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISION OF THIS SUBTITLE TO THE
26 CONTRARY, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT A SYSTEM OF STAGGERED
27 REGISTRATION FOR ANY MOTOR VEHICLE CLASS.

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

5 (2) VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES OR VALIDATION TABS SHALL BE
6 ISSUED AND DISPLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED BY THE
7 ADMINISTRATOR.

8 (3) (I) ANY NEW REGISTRATION OR RENEWAL ISSUED DURING THE
9 YEAR MAY BE ISSUED INITIALLY FOR OTHER THAN A 12-MONTH PERIOD TO
10 FACILITATE AN EQUAL VOLUME OF MONTHLY ISSUANCES.

11 (II) THE REGISTRATION FEE SHALL BE PRORATED FOR THE PERIOD
12 ISSUED.

13 (4) FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING RELATIVELY UNIFORM WORK
14 LOADS, MONTHLY VOLUMES OF REGISTRATION RENEWALS SHALL BE EVALUATED
15 FROM TIME TO TIME AND ANY PORTION OF A MONTHLY ISSUANCE MAY BE
16 RESCHEDULED BY APPLYING A DIFFERENT EXPIRATION DATE AND PRORATING THE
17 FEE ACCORDINGLY.

18 (5) THE REFUND OF REGISTRATION FEES ON SURRENDER OF THE
19 REGISTRATION CARD AND UNUSED REGISTRATION PLATES PROVIDED IN § 13-938 OF
20 THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE MADE TO THE OWNER ONLY IF THE RETURN IS MADE
21 PRIOR TO THE EXPIRATION DATE OF THE REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR WHICH
22 APPLICATION FOR REFUND IS MADE.

23 (6) WHENEVER A PRORATED FEE IS ASSESSED, THE AMOUNT SHALL BE
24 CALCULATED BY MULTIPLYING ONE-TWELFTH OF THE APPLICABLE FEE BY THE
25 NUMBER OF MONTHS FOR WHICH THE ISSUANCE OR RENEWAL IS MADE AND THE
26 RESULTANT FIGURE SHALL BE ADJUSTED TO THE NEAREST DOLLAR AMOUNT.

27 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT AND
28 OPERATE A STAGGERED REGISTRATION SYSTEM.

29 13-912.

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

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

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

35 (2) For a vehicle with a manufacturer's shipping weight of more than
36 3,700 pounds -- \$40.50.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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