
By: **Delegate Burns**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2000

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Registration Plates - Display of Owner's County of Residence**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that, in addition to any other information required to be
4 displayed, vehicle registration plates may display the name of the county,
5 including Baltimore City, in which the vehicle's registered owner resides;
6 requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to offer to each vehicle owner
7 applying for new or replacement registration plates the option to obtain
8 registration plates that display the owner's county of residence; requiring the
9 Administration to approve a registration plate design option that complies with
10 this Act; authorizing the Administration, in addition to the annual registration
11 fee otherwise required, to charge a fee, which may not exceed its costs, for the
12 registration plates offered under this Act; and generally relating to registration
13 plates that display the vehicle owner's county of residence.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article - Transportation
16 Section 13-410
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (1999 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

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

21 **Article - Transportation**

22 13-410.

23 (a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, when it registers a vehicle,
24 the Administration shall issue to the owner:

25 (i) One registration plate, if the vehicle is a Class D (motorcycle)
26 vehicle, Class F (tractor) vehicle, or Class G (trailer) vehicle; and

27 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle.

1 (2) However, as to temporary registration, the Administration may
2 provide for the issuance of only one temporary registration plate for any vehicle.

3 (b) (1) Each registration plate shall display:

4 (i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is
5 issued; and

6 (ii) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

7 (2) The registration number may consist of letters, numerals, or both.

8 (3) (I) AT THE OPTION OF THE REGISTERED OWNER OF A VEHICLE
9 FOR WHICH REGISTRATION PLATES ARE ISSUED UNDER THIS TITLE, IN ADDITION TO
10 THE INFORMATION OTHERWISE REQUIRED TO BE SHOWN ON THE REGISTRATION
11 PLATES, THE REGISTRATION PLATES MAY DISPLAY THE NAME OF THE COUNTY,
12 INCLUDING BALTIMORE CITY, IN WHICH THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE RESIDES.

13 (II) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:

14 1. APPROVE A REGISTRATION PLATE DESIGN OPTION THAT
15 COMPLIES WITH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH; AND

16 2. OFFER TO EACH VEHICLE OWNER APPLYING FOR NEW OR
17 REPLACEMENT REGISTRATION PLATES UNDER THIS TITLE THE OPTION TO SELECT
18 REGISTRATION PLATES THAT DISPLAY THE OWNER'S COUNTY OF RESIDENCE.

19 (III) IN ADDITION TO THE ANNUAL REGISTRATION FEE OTHERWISE
20 REQUIRED UNDER THIS TITLE, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY CHARGE A FEE, NOT TO
21 EXCEED ITS COSTS, FOR ISSUING THE REGISTRATION PLATES OFFERED UNDER THIS
22 PARAGRAPH.

23 (c) Registration plates may be reflectorized and shall be manufactured of a
24 material warranted to have a durability of at least 5 years. However, prior to
25 registration plates being reflectorized, the Administration shall obtain approval of the
26 General Assembly through a budget item.

27 (d) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may order
28 the continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current registration
29 year, and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a vehicle's
30 registration is renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's annual
31 registration fee.

32 (2) The tab shall be displayed on the plates of the vehicle in the manner
33 that the Administrator requires.

34 (3) The Administrator from time to time shall evaluate the condition of
35 registration plates issued under this title and may provide for the manufacture and
36 issuance of new registration plates. These new registration plates shall be issued and
37 subsequently validated in the manner required by this subtitle.

1 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the
2 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and
3 13-619 of this title.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2000.