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By: **Delegates Sossi, Boteler, Elmore, Stull, and Walkup**  
Introduced and read first time: January 26, 2004  
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Single Registration Plate**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single  
4 registration plate to all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of  
5 attachment of the registration plate; making technical corrections; authorizing  
6 the publisher of the Annotated Code to make certain corrections; and generally  
7 relating to vehicle registration plates.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Transportation  
10 Section 13-410 and 13-411  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Transportation**

16 13-410.

17 (a) [(1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, when] WHEN it registers a  
18 vehicle, the Administration shall issue to the owner[:

19 (i) One] ONE registration plate[, if the vehicle is a Class D  
20 (motorcycle) vehicle, Class F (tractor) vehicle, or Class G (trailer) vehicle; and

21 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle].

22 (2) [However, as to temporary registration, the] THE Administration  
23 may provide for the issuance of [only] one temporary registration plate for any  
24 vehicle.

25 (b) (1) [Each] THE registration plate shall display:

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

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

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

5 (c) (1) This [section] SUBSECTION applies only to the following vehicles:

6 (i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

7 (ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle registered or capable of registration  
8 under § 13-917 of this title; and

9 (iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

10 (2) At the option of the registered owner of a vehicle for which A  
11 registration [plates are] PLATE IS issued under this title, in addition to the  
12 information otherwise required to be shown on the registration [plates] PLATE, the  
13 registration [plates] PLATE may display a sticker indicating the name of the county,  
14 including Baltimore City, in which the owner of the vehicle resides.

15 (3) The Administration shall:

16 (i) Approve a sticker design option that complies with paragraph  
17 (2) of this subsection; and

18 (ii) Offer to each vehicle owner applying for A new or replacement  
19 registration [plates] PLATE under this title the option to select a sticker that displays  
20 the owner's county of residence.

21 (4) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under  
22 this title, the Administration may charge a fee, not to exceed its costs, for issuing or  
23 replacing the county sticker offered under this subsection.

24 (5) A vehicle owner may not display stickers that show a county name  
25 other than the owner's county of residence.

26 (6) A county sticker issued under this subsection may not be placed on a  
27 special registration plate or a commemorative registration plate issued under Subtitle  
28 6 of this title.

29 (d) Registration plates may be reflectorized and shall be manufactured of a  
30 material warranted to have a durability of at least 5 years. However, prior to  
31 registration plates being reflectorized, the Administration shall obtain approval of the  
32 General Assembly through a budget item.

33 (e) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may order  
34 the continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current registration  
35 year, and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a vehicle's

1 registration is renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's annual  
2 registration fee.

3 (2) The tab shall be displayed on the [plates] REGISTRATION PLATE of  
4 the vehicle in the manner that the Administrator requires.

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

9 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the  
10 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and  
11 13-619 of this title.

12 13-411.

13 (a) [On a vehicle for which two registration plates are required, one plate  
14 shall be attached on the front and the other on the rear of the vehicle.

15 (b) On a vehicle for which one registration plate is required, the] THE  
16 REGISTRATION plate shall be attached on the:

17 (1) Front of the vehicle for a Class F (tractor) vehicle; and

18 (2) Rear of the vehicle for every other vehicle.

19 [(c)] (B) At all times, [each] THE registration plate shall be:

20 (1) Maintained free from foreign materials, including registration plate  
21 covers as defined in § 13-411.1 of this subtitle, and in a condition to be clearly legible;  
22 and

23 (2) Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

24 (i) In a horizontal position;

25 (ii) In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

26 (iii) In a place and position to be clearly visible.

27 [(d)] (C) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
28 Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, a person may not  
29 drive the vehicle on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to the vehicle  
30 and displayed on it, as required in this title:

31 (1) A registration plate [or plates] issued for the vehicle by the  
32 Administration for the current registration period; and

33 (2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

1 [(e)] (D) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
2 Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, the owner of the  
3 vehicle may not permit the vehicle to be driven on any highway in this State, unless  
4 there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required in this title:

5 (1) A registration plate [or plates] issued by the Administration for the  
6 current registration period; and

7 (2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

8 [(f)] (E) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
9 Law, a vehicle used or driven in this State may not display on either its front or rear  
10 any expired registration plate issued by any state.

11 [(g)] (F) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle  
12 Law, a person may not display or permit to be displayed on any vehicle used or driven  
13 in this State any registration plate issued for another vehicle or to a person other  
14 than the owner of the vehicle.

15 [(h)] (G) (1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in  
16 this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display vintage  
17 registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the vehicle.  
18 Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle  
19 provided for the display of THE registration [plates] PLATE may only be used for the  
20 display of THE current registration [plates] PLATE in accordance with subsections (a)  
21 [through (c)] AND (B) of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are  
22 used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

23 (2) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration  
24 plates in lieu of A current registration [plates] PLATE, as provided in § 13-936.1 of  
25 this title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under  
26 subsections (a) [through (c)] AND (B) of this section. However, the current registration  
27 [plates] PLATE shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

28 [(i)] (H) It is the duty of every police officer to report to the Administration all  
29 vehicles operated in violation of this section. The Administration shall verify whether  
30 the owner of a reported vehicle has complied with this section.

31 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any reference in the  
32 Annotated Code of Maryland to multiple registration plates rendered obsolete by this  
33 Act shall be corrected by the publisher of the Annotated Code, in consultation with  
34 the Department of Legislative Services, with no further action required by the  
35 General Assembly. The publisher shall adequately describe corrections made under  
36 this section in the editor's note following the section affected.

37 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
38 October 1, 2004.