

# SENATE BILL 332

R7

8lr1029

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By: **Senator Simonaire**

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2008

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles – Single Registration Plate and Front Plate Program**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single  
4 registration plate for all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of  
5 attachment of the registration plate; establishing a Front Plate Program in the  
6 Administration; requiring the Administration to offer certain front plates;  
7 authorizing an organization to apply to offer front plates through the Program;  
8 providing that only certain plates may be offered through the Program;  
9 requiring an organization that is approved to offer front plates through the  
10 Program to provide the front plates in a certain manner; authorizing the  
11 Administration to include certain information in certain mailings; providing for  
12 the collection, setting, and use of certain fees; requiring the Administration to  
13 adopt certain regulations; requiring the publisher of the Annotated Code to  
14 make certain corrections; and generally relating to a single vehicle registration  
15 plate and a Front Plate Program.

16 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
17 Article – Transportation  
18 Section 13–410 and 13–411  
19 Annotated Code of Maryland  
20 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

21 BY adding to  
22 Article – Transportation  
23 Section 13–632 to be under the new part “Part V. Front Plate Program”  
24 Annotated Code of Maryland  
25 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



**Article - Transportation**

13-410.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) (1) This subsection applies only to the following vehicles:

(i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

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

(iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

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

(3) The Administration shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

13           (e) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may  
14 order the continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current  
15 registration year, and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a  
16 vehicle's registration is renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's  
17 annual registration fee.

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

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

24           (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the  
25 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and  
26 13-619 of this title.

27 13-411.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6                            (i)        In a horizontal position;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30            [(h)] (G)        (1)        A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L)  
31 in this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display  
32 vintage registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the  
33 vehicle. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle

1 provided for the display of **THE** registration [plates] **PLATE** may only be used for the  
2 display of **THE** current registration [plates] **PLATE** in accordance with subsections [(a)  
3 through (c)] **(A) AND (B)** of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are  
4 used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

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

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

13 **13-630. RESERVED.**

14 **13-631. RESERVED.**

15 **PART V. FRONT PLATE PROGRAM.**

16 **13-632.**

17 **(A) THERE IS A FRONT PLATE PROGRAM IN THE ADMINISTRATION.**

18 **(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL OFFER DECORATIVE FRONT PLATES**  
19 **TO BE ATTACHED TO VEHICLES NOT REQUIRED TO DISPLAY FRONTAL**  
20 **REGISTRATION PLATES.**

21 **(C) (1) AN ORGANIZATION MAY APPLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION TO**  
22 **OFFER FRONT PLATES THROUGH THE PROGRAM.**

23 **(2) THE APPLICATION SHALL INCLUDE THE DESIGN OF THE**  
24 **FRONT PLATE.**

25 **(3) ONLY A FRONT PLATE APPROVED BY THE ADMINISTRATION**  
26 **SHALL BE OFFERED THROUGH THE PROGRAM.**

27 **(4) AN ORGANIZATION THAT IS APPROVED TO OFFER FRONT**  
28 **PLATES THROUGH THE PROGRAM SHALL:**

29 **(I) PROVIDE THE ADMINISTRATION WITH THE FRONT**  
30 **PLATES; OR**

1                   **(II) ARRANGE TO HAVE THE FRONT PLATES PROVIDED**  
2 **THROUGH MARYLAND CORRECTIONAL ENTERPRISES.**

3           **(D) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY INCLUDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE**  
4 **OPTION TO PURCHASE A FRONT PLATE IN REGULAR MAILINGS RELATED TO**  
5 **VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES.**

6           **(E) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL COLLECT A FEE FROM:**

7                   **(I) AN INDIVIDUAL PURCHASING A FRONT PLATE THROUGH**  
8 **THE PROGRAM; AND**

9                   **(II) AN ORGANIZATION APPLYING TO OFFER FRONT PLATES**  
10 **THROUGH THE PROGRAM.**

11           **(2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:**

12                   **(I) RETAIN A PORTION OF THE FEE COLLECTED FROM AN**  
13 **INDIVIDUAL PURCHASING A FRONT PLATE THROUGH THE PROGRAM; AND**

14                   **(II) FORWARD THE REMAINDER TO THE ORGANIZATION**  
15 **THAT PROVIDED THE FRONT PLATE.**

16           **(3) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL SET FEES UNDER THIS SECTION**  
17 **AT A LEVEL THAT IS SUFFICIENT TO:**

18                   **(I) ENABLE THE ADMINISTRATION TO RECOVER ITS COSTS**  
19 **UNDER THIS SECTION; AND**

20                   **(II) RESULT IN A SURPLUS AFTER COSTS ARE SUBTRACTED.**

21           **(4) MONEYS REMAINING AFTER THE ADMINISTRATION HAS**  
22 **RECOVERED ITS COSTS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE PAID INTO THE**  
23 **EDWARD T. CONROY SCHOLARSHIP FUND UNDER § 18-601 OF THE EDUCATION**  
24 **ARTICLE.**

25           **(F) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ARE**  
26 **NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.**

27           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any reference in the  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland to multiple registration plates rendered obsolete by this  
29 Act shall be corrected by the publisher of the Annotated Code, in consultation with the  
30 Department of Legislative Services, with no further action required by the General

1 Assembly. The publisher shall adequately describe corrections made under this section  
2 in the editor's note following the section affected.

3 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
4 October 1, 2008.