

CHAPTER 524

(House Bill 847)

AN ACT concerning

Vehicle Laws – Falsifying Documents and Registration Plates – Arrest and Penalties

FOR the purpose of authorizing a police officer to arrest an individual without a warrant for a violation of certain provisions of law related to falsifying certain vehicle-related documents and registration plates; ~~making a violation of certain provisions of law related to falsifying certain vehicle-related documents and registration plates a felony; altering a certain penalty;~~ and generally relating to ~~penalties~~ arrest for falsifying certain vehicle-related documents and registration plates.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 14–110
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 26–202(a)(3)(vii) and (viii) ~~and 27–101(e)~~
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 26–202(a)(3)(ix) ~~and 27–114~~
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2006 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

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

Article – Transportation

14–110.

- (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (2) “Falsify” includes alter, counterfeit, duplicate, or forge.

(3) "Registration plate" means every plate or marker required by law to be attached to a vehicle, but does not include the temporary number plate referred to in § 13-415(e)(1) of this article.

(b) A person may not, with fraudulent intent, falsify or attempt to falsify any certificate of title, registration card, registration plate, validation tab, permit, or any other official document issued by the Administration.

(c) A person may not, with fraudulent intent, manufacture, construct, or possess any paraphernalia for use in any falsification prohibited by this section.

(d) A person may not, with fraudulent intent, possess, give away, sell, or attempt to sell any item falsified in violation of this section.

(e) A person may not, with fraudulent intent, falsify any assignment on a certificate of title.

(f) A person may not hold any document or registration plate described in this section, knowing that it has been falsified in violation of this section.

(g) A person may not use any document or registration plate described in this section, knowing that it has been falsified in violation of this section.

26-202.

(a) A police officer may arrest without a warrant a person for a violation of the Maryland Vehicle Law, including any rule or regulation adopted under it, or for a violation of any traffic law or ordinance of any local authority of this State, if:

(3) The officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed the violation, and the violation is any of the following offenses:

(vii) Fleeing or attempting to elude a police officer; [or]

(viii) Driving or attempting to drive a vehicle in violation of § 16-101 of this article; **OR**

(IX) A VIOLATION OF ~~§ 14-110~~ § 14-110(B), (C), (D), OR (E) OF THIS ARTICLE;

~~27-101.~~

~~(e) Any person who is convicted of a violation of any of the provisions of the following sections of this article is subject to a fine of not more than \$500 or imprisonment for not more than 2 months or both:~~

- (1) ~~§ 12-301(e), (d), (e), or (f) (“Special identification cards: Fraud and misrepresentation prohibited”);~~
- (2) ~~§ 14-102 (“Taking or driving vehicle without consent of owner”);~~
- (3) ~~§ 14-104 (“Damaging or tampering with vehicle”);~~
- (4) ~~§ 14-107 (“Removed, falsified, or unauthorized identification number or registration card or plate”);~~
- (5) ~~§ 14-110 (“Altered or forged documents and plates”);~~
- (6) ~~§ 15-312 (“Dealers: Prohibited acts — Vehicle sales transactions”);~~
- ~~(7)~~(6) ~~§ 15-313 (“Dealers: Prohibited acts — Advertising practices”);~~
- ~~(8)~~(7) ~~§ 15-314 (“Dealers: Prohibited acts — Violation of licensing laws”);~~
- ~~(9)~~(8) ~~§ 15-411 (“Vehicle salesmen: Prohibited acts”);~~
- ~~(10)~~(9) ~~§ 15-502(e) (“Storage of certain vehicles by unlicensed persons prohibited”);~~
- ~~(11)~~(10) ~~§ 16-113(j) (“Violation of alcohol restriction ordered by a court”);~~
- ~~(12)~~(11) ~~§ 16-301 (“Unlawful application for or use of license”);~~
- ~~(13)~~(12) ~~§ 16-303(h) (“Licenses suspended under certain provisions of Code”);~~
- ~~(14)~~(13) ~~§ 16-303(i) (“Licenses suspended under certain provisions of the traffic laws or regulations of another state”);~~
- ~~(15)~~(14) ~~§ 18-106 (“Unauthorized use of rented motor vehicle”);~~
- ~~(16)~~(15) ~~§ 20-103 (“Driver to remain at scene — Accidents resulting only in damage to attended vehicle or property”);~~
- ~~(17)~~(16) ~~§ 20-104 (“Duty to give information and render aid”);~~
- ~~(18)~~(17) ~~§ 20-105 (“Duty on striking unattended vehicle or other property”);~~

~~[(19)](18) § 20-108 (“False reports prohibited”);~~

~~[(20)](19) § 21-206 (“Interference with traffic control devices or railroad signs and signals”);~~

~~[(21)](20) As to a pedestrian in a marked crosswalk, § 21-502(a) (“Pedestrians’ right of way in crosswalks: In general”), if the violation contributes to an accident;~~

~~[(22)](21) As to another vehicle stopped at a marked crosswalk, § 21-502(e) (“Passing of vehicle stopped for pedestrian prohibited”), if the violation contributes to an accident;~~

~~[(23)](22) Except as provided in subsections (f) and (g) of this section, § 21-902(b) (“Driving while impaired by alcohol”);~~

~~[(24)](23) Except as provided in subsections (f) and (g) of this section, § 21-902(e) (“Driving while impaired by drugs or drugs and alcohol”);~~

~~[(25)](24) § 21-902.1 (“Driving within 12 hours after arrest”); or~~

~~[(26)](25) § 27-107(d), (e), (f), or (g) (“Prohibited acts — Ignition interlock systems”).~~

~~27-114.~~

~~A PERSON WHO VIOLATES § 14-110 OF THIS ARTICLE IS GUILTY OF A FELONY AND ON CONVICTION IS SUBJECT TO IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN 2 MONTHS OR A FINE OF NOT MORE THAN \$1,000 OR BOTH.~~

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2008.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.