

HOUSE BILL 430

R4

9lr1034

By: **Delegates Elliott, Bartlett, Bates, Boteler, McComas, Myers, Shewell,
Sossi, Stull, F. Turner, Walkup, and Weldon**
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2009
Assigned to: Environmental Matters

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 certain conforming changes;
6 authorizing the publisher of the Annotated Code to make certain corrections;
7 and generally 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 (2006 Replacement Volume and 2008 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
18 registers a 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] **TO THE**
22 **OWNER OF THE VEHICLE.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

4 (i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it
5 is 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 (c) (1) This subsection applies only to the following vehicles:

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

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

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

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

18 (3) The Administration shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, the
17 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and
18 13-619 of this title.

19 (g) The dimensions of a registration plate issued for a Class D (motorcycle)
20 vehicle shall be 7 inches wide by 4 inches high.

21 13-411.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 (i) In a horizontal position;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 [(h)] (G) (1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L)
25 in this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display
26 vintage registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the
27 vehicle. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle
28 provided for the display of A registration [plates] **PLATE** may only be used for the
29 display of **THE** current registration [plates] **PLATE** in accordance with subsections (a)
30 [through (c)] **AND (B)** of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are
31 used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

32 (2) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration
33 plates in lieu of **THE** current registration [plates] **PLATE**, as provided in § 13-936.1 of
34 this title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under

1 subsections (a) [through (c)] **AND (B)** of this section. However, the current registration
2 [plates] **PLATE** shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

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

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

12 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED,** That this Act shall take effect
13 October 1, 2009.