

HOUSE BILL 61

R4
HB 327/14 – ENV

5lr1131

By: **Delegates O'Donnell and Fisher**
Introduced and read first time: January 21, 2015
Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

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 attachment
5 of the registration plate; making certain conforming changes, a certain stylistic
6 change, and a certain technical correction; requiring the publisher of the Annotated
7 Code of Maryland to make certain corrections; and generally relating to vehicle
8 registration plates.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 13–410 and 13–411
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2014 Supplement)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 13–410.

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

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

22 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle] **TO THE OWNER**
23 **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 may
2 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 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 (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 registration
11 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 information
15 otherwise required to be shown on the registration [plates] **PLATE**, the registration [plates]
16 **PLATE** may display a sticker indicating the name of the county, including Baltimore City,
17 in which the owner of the vehicle resides.

18 (3) The Administration shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the
19 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and
20 13-619 of this title.

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

23 13-411.

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

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

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

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

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

31 (1) Maintained free from foreign materials, including A registration plate
32 [covers] **COVER** as defined in § 13-411.1 of this subtitle, and in a condition to be clearly
33 legible; and

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

2 (i) In a horizontal position;

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (1) A registration plate **[or plates]** issued by the Administration for the
17 current registration period; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
16 October 1, 2015.