

SENATE BILL 12

R4
HB 61/15 – ENV

(PRE-FILED)

8lr0338

By: **Senator Klausmeier**

Requested: July 18, 2017

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2018

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicle Laws – Registration Plates – Single Registration Plate**
3 **Requirement**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single
5 registration plate to all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of attachment
6 of the registration plate; making certain conforming changes, a certain stylistic
7 change, and a certain technical correction; requiring the publisher of the Annotated
8 Code of Maryland to make certain corrections; and generally relating to vehicle
9 registration plates.

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
11 Article – Transportation
12 Section 13–410 and 13–411
13 Annotated Code of Maryland
14 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Transportation**

18 13–410.

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

21 (i) One] **ONE** registration plate[, if the vehicle is:

22 1. A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 2. A Class F (tractor) vehicle;
- 2 3. A Class G (trailer) vehicle;
- 3 4. A Class L (historic) vehicle that was manufactured at least
4 50 years before the current model year; or
- 5 5. A Class N (street rod) vehicle that was manufactured at
6 least 50 years before the current model year; and

7 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle] **TO THE OWNER**
8 **OF THE VEHICLE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (3) The Administration shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the
27 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and
28 13-619 of this title.

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

31 (h) A registration plate that is required to be returned to the Administration may
32 be returned through the mail.

33 13-411.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 (i) In a horizontal position;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 ~~[(h)] (G)~~ (1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in
6 this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display vintage
7 registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the vehicle. Except
8 as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle provided for the
9 display of ~~A~~ registration ~~[plates]~~ ~~PLATE~~ may only be used for the display of ~~THE~~ current
10 registration ~~[plates]~~ ~~PLATE~~ in accordance with subsections (a) ~~[through (c)]~~ ~~AND (B)~~ of
11 this section, and any vintage registration plates which are used shall be displayed
12 elsewhere on the vehicle.

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

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

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

27 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
28 October 1, 2018.