

Chapter 566

(House Bill 470)

AN ACT concerning

**Vehicle Laws – Obscured ~~or Modified~~, Modified, or Blocked Registration Plates
and Registration Plate Covers**

FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from obscuring or modifying any vehicle registration plate in a manner that may prevent identification and enforcing the prohibition as a secondary offense; prohibiting a person from advertising for or promoting the sale of certain registration plate covers in a certain manner and establishing that a violation is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice subject to certain enforcement and penalties; and generally relating to obscured ~~or modified~~, modified, or blocked vehicle registration plates and registration plate covers.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Commercial Law

Section 13–301(14)(xlii)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Commercial Law

Section 13–301(14)(xliii)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Commercial Law

Section 13–301(14)(xliv)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–411(c)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 13–411.1 and 21–1112.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

Article – Commercial Law

13–301.

Unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practices include any:

(14) Violation of a provision of:

(xlii) Section 12–6C–09.1 of the Health Occupations Article; [or]

(xliii) Title 14, Subtitle 48 of this article; or

(XLIV) **SECTION 13–411.1(C)(2) OF THE TRANSPORTATION**
ARTICLE; OR

Article – Transportation

13–411.

(c) (1) At all times, each registration plate shall be:

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

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

1. In a horizontal position;

2. In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

3. In a place and position to be clearly visible.

(2) For a violation involving the placement of an object framing or bordering the edges of a registration plate, a police officer may enforce this subsection only as a secondary action when the police officer detains a driver of a motor vehicle for a suspected violation of another provision of the Code.

13–411.1.

(a) In this section, “registration plate cover” means any tinted, colored, painted, marked, [clear,] or illuminated object that is designed to:

(1) [Cover] OBSCURE OR BLOCK any of the characters of a vehicle's registration plate; or

(2) Distort a recorded image of any of the characters of a vehicle's registration plate recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system under § 21–202.1 of this article.

(b) A person may not sell or offer for sale a registration plate cover.

(c) (1) A person may not advertise for the purpose of promoting the sale of registration plate covers.

(2) A PERSON MAY NOT ADVERTISE FOR OR PROMOTE THE SALE OF AN UNLAWFUL REGISTRATION PLATE COVER BY FALSELY CLAIMING THAT THE REGISTRATION PLATE COVER IS LAWFUL IN THE STATE.

(D) A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION (C)(2) OF THIS SECTION IS:

(1) AN UNFAIR, ABUSIVE, OR DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICE WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 13 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE; AND

(2) IN ADDITION TO THE PENALTY UNDER § 27–101 OF THIS ARTICLE, SUBJECT TO THE ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTY PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN TITLE 13 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW ARTICLE.

21–1112.1.

(a) A person may not obscure or modify any vehicle registration plate [with intent to avoid] **IN A MANNER THAT MAY PREVENT** identification.

(b) A violation of this section is a moving violation for the purpose of the assessment of points under § 16–402 of this article.

(C) A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THIS SECTION ONLY AS A SECONDARY ACTION WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER DETAINS A DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE FOR A SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2025.