

**SB0322/763023/1**

BY: Judicial Proceedings Committee

AMENDMENTS TO SENATE BILL 322  
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in line 2, strike “**or Modified**” and substitute “**, Modified, or Blocked**”; in the same line, after “**Plates**” insert “**and Registration Plate Covers**”; in line 4, after “identification” insert “and enforcing the prohibition as a secondary offense”; in the same line, before “and” insert “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;”; in line 5, strike “or modified” and substitute “, modified, or blocked”; in the same line, after “plates” insert “and registration plate covers”; after line 5, insert:

“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

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(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)”;

and in line 8, after “Section” insert “13–411.1 and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

After line 12, insert:

**“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”;**

after line 13, insert:

“13–411.

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(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.

(Over)

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(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.”;

and after line 18, insert:

“(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.”.