

HOUSE BILL 470

R5
HB 750/24 – ENT

5lr1912
CF SB 322

By: ~~Delegates Ziegler and Addison~~, Addison, Behler, Boyce, Foley, Guyton,
Holmes, R. Lewis, T. Morgan, Stein, Stewart, and Terrasa

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 5, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

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

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

11 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

12 Article – Commercial Law

13 Section 13–301(14)(xlii)

14 Annotated Code of Maryland

15 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Commercial Law

18 Section 13–301(14)(xliii)

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article – Commercial Law
 2 Section 13–301(14)(xliv)
 3 Annotated Code of Maryland
 4 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

5 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 6 Article – Transportation
 7 Section 13–411(c)
 8 Annotated Code of Maryland
 9 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

10 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 11 Article – Transportation
 12 Section 13–411.1 and 21–1112.1
 13 Annotated Code of Maryland
 14 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

17 **Article – Commercial Law**

18 13–301.

19 Unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practices include any:

20 (14) Violation of a provision of:

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

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

23 (XLIV) **SECTION 13–411.1(C)(2) OF THE TRANSPORTATION**

24 **ARTICLE; OR**

25 **Article – Transportation**

26 13–411.

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

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

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

- 1 1. In a horizontal position;
- 2 2. In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and
- 3 3. In a place and position to be clearly visible.

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

8 13-411.1.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 21-1112.1.

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

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

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

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

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.