

HOUSE BILL 1495

R4
HB 1264/20 – ENT

6lr3328

By: **Delegates Adams, Anderson, Arentz, Baker, Beauchamp, Hutchinson,
McComas, Rose, and Wivell**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2026

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Registration Plates**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single
4 registration plate to all classes of vehicles; prohibiting persons who are issued a Class
5 L (historic) registration plate from violating the terms of issuance; and generally
6 relating to vehicle registration plates.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 13–410 and 13–411

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – Transportation

14 Section 13–703(i)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,

18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Transportation**

20 13–410.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (i) One] **ONE** registration plate[, if the vehicle is:
- 2 1. A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;
- 3 2. A Class F (tractor) vehicle;
- 4 3. A Class G (trailer) vehicle;
- 5 4. A Class L (historic) vehicle that was manufactured at least
- 6 50 years before the current model year; or
- 7 5. A Class N (street rod) vehicle that was manufactured at
- 8 least 50 years before the current model year; and

9 (ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle] **TO THE OWNER**

10 **OF THE VEHICLE.**

11 (2) [However, as to temporary registration, the] **THE** Administration may

12 provide for the issuance of [only] one temporary registration plate for any vehicle.

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

14 (i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is

15 issued; and

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

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

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

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

20 (ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle registered or capable of registration

21 under § 13–917 of this title; and

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

23 (2) At the option of the registered owner of a vehicle for which A

24 registration [plates are] **PLATE IS** issued under this title, in addition to the information

25 otherwise required to be shown on the registration [plates] **PLATE**, the registration [plates]

26 **PLATE** may display a sticker indicating the name of the county, including Baltimore City,

27 in which the owner of the vehicle resides.

28 (3) The Administration shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the
29 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and
30 13-619 of this title.

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

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

35 13-411.

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

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

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

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

7 [(c)] **(B)** (1) At all times, [each] **THE** registration plate shall be:

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

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

12 1. In a horizontal position;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (1) A registration plate [or plates] issued by the Administration for the

1 current registration period; and

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

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

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

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

18 (2) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration
19 plates in lieu of THE current registration [plates] PLATE, as provided in § 13-936.1 of this
20 title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under subsections (a)
21 [through (c)] AND (B) of this section. However, the current registration [plates] PLATE
22 shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

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

26 13-703.

27 (I) (1) AS TO ANY CLASS L (HISTORIC) VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATE
28 ISSUED TO A PERSON UNDER § 13-936 OF THIS TITLE, THE PERSON MAY NOT
29 KNOWINGLY VIOLATE THE TERMS OF THE ISSUANCE.

30 (2) A FIRST VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ENFORCED BY
31 THE ISSUANCE OF A WARNING.

32 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any reference in the
33 Annotated Code of Maryland to multiple registration plates rendered obsolete by this Act
34 shall be corrected by the publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with
35 and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, with no further
36 action required by the General Assembly. The publisher shall adequately describe any

1 correction made under this section in an editor's note following the section affected.

2 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
3 October 1, 2026.