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Subcommittees
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The Maryland House of Delegates
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**Sponsor Testimony in SUPPORT of House Bill 632 - Multi-year Registration
Before the House Environment and Transportation Committee
February 20, 2020**

House Bill 632 would give vehicle owners the choice of renewing their tags for 1 or 2 years whether they renew online, by phone or in person. This change would benefit renewing vehicle owners seeking to ease their cash flow and would reduce costs for those moving or newly registering in Maryland.

The Motor Vehicle Administration is currently authorized to issue multi-year registrations and their default practice today is 2-year renewals. Owners can renew their registration in-person, over the phone or online. There is a lesser-known option to renew for one year, but it is only available for those people renewing in-person at an MVA and who know to ask a representative.

Maryland has one of the highest motor vehicle tag registration fees in the U.S. which can make a 2-year registration financially challenging for some.

Passage of HB632 would bring Maryland into closer conformity with nearby states that let vehicle owners choose a renewal term including: Virginia (1, 2 or 3) years, District of Columbia (1 or 2 years), West Virginia (1 or 2 years), and Pennsylvania (1 or 2 years). In those places, 1 year renewal is a popular option (65% in VA, 87% in PA, & 58% in DC).

To make the bill revenue-neutral, the bill also authorizes MVA to charge a modest late fee for registration renewed after they expire and after a 1-week grace period. 26 states have such a fee but Maryland currently does not.

Another benefit of HB632 is the likely accelerated receipt of revenue to government agencies for various types of traffic debt that rely on flagged registrations to collect - parking tickets, red light cameras, speed cameras and tolls.

I ask for your favorable report.