



Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition

Testimony to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
HB 368: Motor Vehicle Registration Clarification Act
Position: Favorable

March 23, 2022

The Honorable William Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

cc: Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

Honorable Chair Smith and Members of the Committee:

The Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition (MCRC) is a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations that advances economic rights and financial inclusion for Maryland consumers through research, education, direct service, and advocacy. Our 8,500 supporters include consumer advocates, practitioners, and low-income and working families throughout Maryland.

We are writing today in support of HB 368. HB 368 prohibits the Motor Vehicle Administration from assessing a penalty for a vehicle whose required security has terminated or lapsed if the vehicle's certificate of title has been transferred to a new owner and the vehicle's registration plates are returned to the Administration within 10 days after the termination or lapse

In 2018, MCRC's research report [No Exit](#) documented Maryland's debt collection processes as well as policies that criminalize poverty. Fines and fees are one set of policies that criminalize poverty among Maryland residents. Several years ago, MCRC supported legislation to delink drivers licenses renewals from fines and fees. Similarly, HB 368 prohibits penalizing a driver under limited circumstances in order to limit punitive fines and fees that for Maryland consumers.

For all of these reasons, we support HB 368 and request a favorable report.

Best,

Marceline White
Executive Director