

Amendments to House Bill 750.pdf

Uploaded by: Natalie Ziegler

Position: FAV



HB0750/453320/1

AMENDMENTS
PREPARED
BY THE
DEPT. OF LEGISLATIVE
SERVICES

19 FEB 24
15:41:45

BY: Delegate Ziegler

(To be offered in the Environment and Transportation Committee)

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL 750

(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, strike beginning with “requiring” in line 3 down through “age;” in line 5; in line 7, after “identification;” insert “providing for enforcement only as a secondary offense for a violation involving obscuring or modifying a vehicle registration plate;” and in line 18, strike “13–418 and”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 2, strike in their entirety lines 7 through 16, inclusive; after line 25, insert:

“(B) 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.”;

and in line 26, strike “(b)” and substitute “**(C)**”.

HB0750 - MDTA and MVA - Damaged, Obscured, or Modi

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: FWA

February 22, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee
251 House Office Building
Annapolis MD 21401

RE: Letter of Support with Amendments – House Bill 750 – Vehicle Laws - Damaged, Obscured, or Modified Registration Plates

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) supports House Bill 750 with amendments and offers the following information for the Committee's consideration.

With respect to the operations of the Maryland Transportation Authority's (MDTA) EZ-Pass program, when a vehicle owner obscures or modifies their license plate, these actions can result in lost revenue due to either the notice of tolls due (NOTD) being sent to the incorrect customer or no transaction taking place as no vehicle owner can be identified. For reference, 388,295 and 380,491 obstructed plates were reported in calendar year 2022 and 2023 respectively. With respect to the penalty structure, current law affords law enforcement the discretion to issue either a warning or citation when a violation occurs, rather than requiring a penalty based on the number of offenses. Given that all law enforcement agencies in the State do not utilize the same citation reporting program, the current law would be preferred to allow law enforcement to make determinations on a case-by-case basis.

The MDOT Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has recently implemented an optional plate replacement program similar to the one outlined in House Bill 750. The pilot program informs all Class A and Class M vehicle owners that have standard issue plates fifteen years or older that they are eligible for replacement at no charge. During registration renewal, eligible customers have the option to indicate that they would like to replace their vehicle plates or continue to keep their existing plates. The MVA would support an amendment that would remove the requirement to provide replacement plates for Class D, Class E, Class G, Class L, and Class N vehicles and trailers in addition to special registration tags under Transportation Article § 13-619.2 as currently required in the bill. This will align the legislation with the current pilot program.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee grant House Bill 750 a favorable report with the amendments described above.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
410-865-1090