

D_McCraySB357.pdf

Uploaded by: Danielle McCray

Position: FAV

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL



Councilwoman Danielle McCray

Second District

100 N. HOLLIDAY STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

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EMAIL: Danielle.McCray@baltimorecity.gov

CHAIR:

HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

MEMBER:

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE

FINANCE AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

January 31, 2024

RE: Senate Bill 357 - Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Dear Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Respected Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 357 and to urge your favorable vote on this essential piece of legislation. SB357 seeks to grant Baltimore City the authority to tow, remove, or impound vehicles belonging to recent state residents who fail to register their vehicles with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) and display valid registration plates within a 60-day window.

The significance and impact of this legislation are far-reaching, addressing critical concerns that demand our immediate attention. One primary issue is the widespread use of temporary license plates, often referred to as "ghost tags." These plates are intended for short-term use after a vehicle sale, but lax state regulations have enabled the proliferation of counterfeit temporary tags. Some individuals misuse these illegitimate tags to avoid tolls, evade traffic camera-generated fines, skip out on car insurance and registration fees, and escape identification following criminal activities.

Furthermore, the widespread use of illegal or counterfeit temporary license plates poses a substantial public safety risk, particularly for law enforcement officers conducting routine stops. Vehicles with out-of-state tags can complicate law enforcement efforts, making it challenging to track and identify individuals involved in criminal activities or accidents. Granting Baltimore City the authority to address such situations will significantly enhance law enforcement's effectiveness.

Lastly, the financial impact on Maryland due to lost revenue and taxes from vehicles with out-of-state tags not contributing their fair share to the state's funds cannot be underestimated. Enforcing timely registration is a vital step in maintaining a balanced financial ecosystem.

Our existing laws and regulations concerning vehicle licensing serve a crucial purpose and should be applied consistently to all residents to foster a safer and more accountable community. With your affirmative vote, this bill will not only enhance public safety but also ensure a more efficient and equitable use of resources within our community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Danielle McCray".

Councilwoman Danielle McCray

Baltimore City Councilwoman - 2nd District

Virginia Registration Ltr.

Uploaded by: Danielle McCray

Position: FAV



**MOTOR VEHICLE
ADMINISTRATION**

Wes Moore
Governor
Aruna Miller
Lieutenant Governor
Paul J. Wiedefeld
Secretary
Christine Nizer
Administrator

Current Resident

<Fstrstreet> <unit>
<fstrcity>, MD <fstrzip>
<Date>

Dear Customer,

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) has recently learned that an individual residing at <fstrstreet> owns a vehicle(s) that is titled and registered in Virginia. Maryland law (Transportation Article §13-402) requires that a vehicle be registered in Maryland within 60 days of moving to Maryland. If you delay beyond 60 days, you will not be eligible for a tax credit for any titling tax paid in another state, and you may be subject to a citation for an out of state registration.

The MVA's Division of Investigations and Security Services, the Maryland State Police and local law enforcement agencies, share the responsibility in enforcing this requirement. Failing to comply could result in a citation which carries a fine of up to \$500. Violators' vehicles could also be towed for not fulfilling the registration requirement and not having the required levels of automobile insurance required by Maryland law.

The exceptions to the requirement include active-duty military members, university students, temporary employees, and medical visitors. To see if you qualify for an exemption, visit our website at <https://mva.maryland.gov/about-mva/Pages/info/27300/27300-60T.aspx> or call our Customer Service Center at 410-768-7000.

If you do not fall into one of these exempt categories, we urge you to promptly title and register your vehicle(s) in Maryland. You can apply for a Maryland title and registration with an appointment in person at any of the MVA's 24 branch offices statewide. To make an appointment please visit our online services and complete a pre-application for Title and Registration: <https://mymva.maryland.gov/go/web/TitleRegPreApp>.

Sincerely,
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration

Testimony for Delegate Addison (1).pdf

Uploaded by: Daryl Thorpe

Position: FAV

Delegate Jackie Addison

317 Lowe House Office Building

6 Bladen Street

Annapolis, MD 21401

Phone 410-841-3551

Bill Title: Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Good afternoon, esteemed members of the Environment and Transportation Committee. I am Antonio Glover, proudly representing District 13 of the Baltimore City Council. Today, I am here to advocate for the support of **House Bill 332** addressing Improper Registration for out-of-state vehicles.

The primary objective of this bill is to ensure that drivers in the State of Maryland adhere to the regulations set forth by the Motor Vehicles Administration. It aims to eliminate any potential misconduct associated with the use of tags from Virginia. We have observed a noticeable surge in the prevalence of Virginia license plates within the City of Baltimore. A recent MarketWatch article highlights a concerning aspect: Virginia does not mandate individuals to carry auto insurance for legal driving.

This influx of Virginia tags has become financially enticing for drivers in Baltimore City and across Maryland. The allure of saving money appears to be encouraging a dangerous trend across the State. As reported, some are viewing this as a cost-effective alternative to following the proper procedures outlined by the MVA.

Beyond the financial incentives, this practice poses significant risks. Many second-hand vendors dealing with Virginia tags merely request a title and a driver's license without subjecting the vehicle to any inspection, which stands in stark contrast to the procedures in Maryland.

This Bill does four things:

1. **Ensuring Regulatory Adherence:** The bill aims to ensure that drivers in Maryland comply with regulations set by the Motor Vehicles Administration.
2. **Addressing Misconduct:** It seeks to eliminate potential misconduct associated with the use of out-of-state tags, particularly those from Virginia.
3. **Financial Disincentive for Improper Registration:** The legislation intends to discourage the financial allure of using Virginia tags, which might lead to dangerous trends across the state.
4. **Safeguarding Road Integrity:** The proposal is focused on safeguarding road integrity by mitigating risks associated with improper registration practices, such as minimal inspections by second-hand dealers.



Antonio Glover
Baltimore City Council Member
District 13

SB 357_Sen Cory McCray.pdf

Uploaded by: Destiny Bell

Position: FAV

CORY V. MCCRAY
Legislative District 45
Baltimore City

DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

Budget and Taxation Committee

Subcommittees

Chair, Health and Human Services

Vice Chair, Capital Budget

Executive Nominations Committee

Legislative Policy Committee

Joint Committee on Gaming Oversight



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11 Bladen Street, Room 221
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Cory.McCray@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Vote Yes to SB 357

Title: Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration

Judicial Proceedings Committee

Hearing: January 31, 2024

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to request your favorable vote on **Senate Bill 357**, a new piece of legislation that will grant Baltimore City the authority to tow, remove, or impound vehicles with ‘ghost tags’, which are vehicles owned by new residents of the State who fail to register their vehicles with the Motor Vehicle Administration and display valid registration plates within a 60-day period). This ensures timely compliance with vehicle registration requirements, and creates a procedure for new residents that ensures adherence to state regulations.

The purpose of **SB357** is to help empower Baltimore City in regulating and enforcing vehicle registration requirements, particularly targeting new residents of the State. By granting the authority to tow, remove, or impound vehicles with ghost tags, this legislation will serve as a deterrent to the people that contribute to decreased road safety and administrative efficiency within Baltimore City.

Significance and Impact: The significance of **SB357** is that it addresses vehicle registration and the management of out-of-state vehicles within Baltimore City. This potentially decreases traffic control challenges, losses of the General Fund revenues, crime risks, and accident risks. By granting the city the authority to tow, remove, or impound vehicles with ghost tags, the legislation will encourage new residents to meet motor vehicle administration requirements. This contributes to road safety which protects us all and also creates a more efficient and organized administrative system. It also benefits the General Fund revenues once vehicles with ghost tags are properly registered and their fees are paid. This bill signifies a commitment to upholding order on our city's roads.

This bill will not require a decrease in the General fund revenues.

This bill prioritizes Maryland citizens and their well-being which is why I would like to urge a favorable report for **Senate Bill 357**.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cory V. McCray', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cory V. McCray
45th District

SB357 Testimony (Councilman Mark Conway _ Favorabl

Uploaded by: Meredith Riley

Position: FAV



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

100 N. Holliday Street, Suite 550 • Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) 396-4830 • mark.conway@baltimorecity.gov

TO: Chair William C. Smith, Jr.; Vice Chair Jeff Waldstreicher; members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Mark Conway (District 4, Baltimore City Council; Chair, Public Safety and Government Operations Committee)

RE: SB357 (Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration)

POSITION: SUPPORT

I am writing today to offer my support for SB357 (Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration), which would authorize Baltimore City to tow, remove, or impound a vehicle owned by a new resident of Maryland who fails to register the vehicle with the Motor Vehicle Administration and display valid registration plates issued by the MVA within 60 days of their move into the state.

In my district, and in Baltimore City as a whole, vehicles with out-of-state plates speed through red lights, accrue hundreds of dollars in speeding camera tickets, and take away street parking spaces from law-abiding constituents. However, these drivers are often Maryland residents who have discovered they can game the system by purchasing out-of-state plates or not changing their out-of-state tags when they move to the state. This makes it harder to enforce traffic laws on them, due to issues between states like lack of ticket reciprocity. When a car with Virginia plates gets caught by the speed cameras on I-83 in Baltimore, they don't have to worry about paying the related fine because the fine is directed to the State of Virginia, where their tags are registered, and because they no longer live in Virginia, they do not get caught, towed, or impounded because of the unpaid fine.

This accountability loophole puts citizens at risk, especially with Virginia plate-holders, because Virginia does not require auto liability insurance. When Marylanders get into a car accident with a faux-Virginia plate-holder, they are often out of luck in seeking recompense and may be on the hook for any damages.

This bill would close the loophole and gives the City the power to tow, remove, or impound any new resident of the State of Maryland who fails to register the vehicle with the MVA and display valid registration within 60 days of their move. These changes have the potential to dramatically curb issues we see with ticket reciprocity, unpaid fines, and insurance claims.

I urge a favorable report on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Conway, Jr.

SB357_FAV_JPR.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

SENATE BILL 357

1/31/2024

TO: Members of Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations
RE: Senate Bill 357 - Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

POSITION: Support

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of the Committee—please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill 357.

Senate Bill 357 authorizes the City of Baltimore to tow and impound vehicles that are not properly registered in the State of Maryland by residents who have lived in the State for more than 60 days. Existing law already requires new residents who have moved to Maryland to register their vehicles within the state within this time period. In Baltimore City and around the State, there has been an increase in the prevalence of out-of-state license plates. The statewide registration requirement is in place to ensure that vehicle owners are in compliance with critical state motor vehicle laws like vehicle emissions testing, insurance requirements, to ensure compliance with administrative penalties for citations, and other important measures intended to promote public safety.

During calendar year 2023, Baltimore City Department of Transportation's Safety Division issued 34,555 parking citations to vehicles with out-of-state tags. Over 56% (19,486) of the vehicles cited with out of state tags were from one state alone. Additionally, BCDOT Safety Division reports flagging 3,723 vehicles during calendar year 2023 as having no tags displayed at the time of the violation.

The State and the City both have vested interest in determining that vehicles are registered properly to owners who maintain permanent residence within the State of Maryland. The passage of Senate Bill 357 will provide Baltimore City the tools necessary to enforce laws that are important to ensuring our public streets are safe and our air quality is clean.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 357.

SB357 Baltimore City - Out of State Vehicles - Imp

Uploaded by: Ryan Dorsey

Position: FAV



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

RYAN DORSEY, 3rd District

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Ryan.Dorsey@BaltimoreCity.gov

January 31st, 2024

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr, Chair
The Honorable Jeff Waldstreicher, Vice-Chair
Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis Maryland

Re: Requesting Favorable Report - of SB357 (HB332) - Baltimore City- Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration

I support this bill in concept, but am concerned that is creating a different penalty for a violation that already exists, but for which no practical means of enforcement seems to exist. For that reason, I would ask for the state to provide thoughtful and practical guidance on exactly how any law enforcement or other authorized agency would go about enforcing the existing statute on in-state vehicle registration. It is my understanding that the existing law is simply not being enforced, for no reason other than nobody seems to understand how. Legal and operational guidance seems to be an imperative, more so than harsher penalties.

So, while I do support the bill in concept, I hope this written testimony may serve as a request for the city of Baltimore to be given clear guidance on how to apply even the existing law.

Ryan Dorsey
January 30, 2024



BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

RYAN DORSEY, 3rd District

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Ryan.Dorsey@BaltimoreCity.gov

SB0357 - MVA - Baltimore City Out of State Vehicle

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

January 31, 2024

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

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 357 – Baltimore City - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of information for the Committee’s consideration on Senate Bill 357.

Senate Bill 357 authorizes Baltimore City to tow, remove, or impound a vehicle that City officials determine to be a new State resident that has failed to properly register with and display valid Maryland registration tags issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

The MVA currently offers an excise tax rebate to new Maryland residents that register their vehicles within the first sixty (60) days of residency. The excise tax rebate is equal to any previously paid excise or sales tax in another state of residence and applied against taxes owed in Maryland. If the previous state of residence charged 6% or more, new residents are charged the minimum rate required under Maryland law. The sixty-day timeline for the MVA begins once a customer obtains their Driver’s License or Identification Card. Additionally, if a vehicle title and registration are not transferred within sixty days of that date, the full excise tax is assessed. The MVA is unable to identify an out-of-state vehicle owner’s residency status until such paperwork showing ownership is presented to the MVA.

The MVA has a reporting mechanism for concerned individuals to identify vehicles that do not appear to have valid Maryland registration tags. When such a report is made, the MVA dispatches an investigator to contact the vehicle owner and determine if they are a resident who does not have an exemption for vehicle registration. The exceptions to the requirement for registration include active-duty military members, university students, temporary employees, and medical visitors. Since Baltimore City is located near military bases, universities, international corporations, and medical facilities, there are a number of possible long-term residents that could qualify for such an exemption. When an MVA investigator identifies that a vehicle owner does not qualify for such an exemption, they issue a 60-day warning to take corrective action.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of Senate Bill 357.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

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