



Councilman Mark Conway
Baltimore City Council *Fourth District*

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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.