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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.