



Maryland State's Attorneys' Association

3300 North Ridge Road, Suite 185

Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

410-203-9881

FAX 410-203-9891

Rich Gibson
President

Steven I. Kroll
Coordinator

DATE: February 4, 2025

BILL NUMBER: HB 470

POSITION: Favorable

The Maryland State's Attorneys' Association (MSAA) supports House Bill 470 and urges this Committee to issue a favorable report.

From traffic safety to toll collection, parking regulation to fraud prevention, the State of Maryland has an interest in ensuring that a vehicle's registration plate is legible and unobstructed and, consequently, in discouraging people from obscuring the legibility of their registration plate.

Currently, MD. CODE ANN., TRANSP. § 21-1112.1 prohibits the obscuring or modifying of a registration plate with the intent to avoid identification. HB 470 make a minor change to the intent requirement of this statute – from prohibiting conduct undertaken “with intent to avoid identification” to prohibiting conduct undertaken “in a manner that may prevent identification – that will better aim the statute at the conduct it is trying to discourage. Maryland needs registration plates to be visible and unobscured, and by prohibiting persons from modifying their registration plate in a manner that renders them difficult to identify, regardless of their intent in making such modification, HB 470 better serves the interests that animated the statute in the first place. MSAA urges this Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 470.