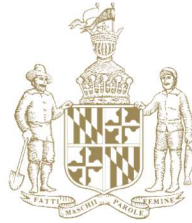


NATALIE ZIEGLER  
Legislative District 9A  
Howard and Montgomery Counties

Environment and Transportation Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates  
6 Bladen Street, Room 214  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3352 · 301-858-3352  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3352  
Natalie.Ziegler@house.state.md.us

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony in Support of HB 470  
Vehicle Laws - Obscured or Modified Registration Plates**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce, and honorable members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

Thank you for considering HB 470 Vehicle Laws - Obscured or Modified Registration Plates.

This bill aims to prevent the obscuring or modification of vehicle registration plates. Currently, obscuring or modifying a license plate is unlawful only if there is proven intent to avoid identification. This bill provides the simple fix of removing "intent" from that language – because regardless of intent, it is still the responsibility of a motorist to make sure their registration plates are legible.

The MDTA's tolling vendor reported more than 388,000 obstructed plates in 2022 and more than 380,000 in 2023. In 2023 alone, the MDTA estimated that it had lost approximately \$2 million in additional revenue due to plates being unreadable to tolling systems.

Obscured or modified license plates also impede road safety enforcement measures such as red light and speeding cameras. This bill prioritizes the safety of Maryland motorists and makes it easier for our State and Local law enforcement to do their jobs effectively.

I urge a favorable report on HB 470.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Natalie Ziegler".

Delegate Natalie Ziegler  
Howard & Montgomery Counties, District 9A