

HB 1166: Motor Vehicles - Dealers - Front Registration Plate Display: Please vote to **OPPOSE** this bill.

Dear Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to strongly urge you to **OPPOSE HB 1166**.

Requiring only a single license plate on vehicles would make it significantly more difficult to identify vehicles involved in traffic violations, criminal activity, or hit-and-run incidents. Two plates—front and rear—provide law enforcement officers, traffic cameras, toll systems, and witnesses with additional opportunities to accurately identify a vehicle from multiple angles. Reducing that visibility weakens an important public safety tool.

Maryland law (§ 13-411) mandates front plate display. Allowing dealers to routinely deliver vehicles without front mounting hardware (and requiring only a signed waiver) effectively encourages widespread noncompliance, erodes enforcement consistency, and weakens a proven tool that helps police keep our roads safe.

Dealers should not be placed in the position of facilitating or documenting choices that directly undermine public safety. Existing law already holds drivers accountable for proper plate display; this bill adds unnecessary bureaucracy to dealers while doing nothing to ensure compliance and actually incentivizes the very behavior that endangers law enforcement and the public.

While there may be arguments about cost savings or aesthetics, **public safety and accountability should remain the priority.** The modest administrative convenience of issuing a single plate does not outweigh the potential risks associated with making vehicle identification more difficult.

For these reasons—primarily the critical importance of front license plates for rapid vehicle identification and public safety—I respectfully ask you to **vote against HB 1166** and preserve Maryland's current requirement for front plate display without creating loopholes at the point of sale.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns regarding this public safety issue.

Sincerely,

Trudy Tibbals