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**HB 1447**

March 5, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director, Mayor's Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1447 – Motor Vehicle Administration – Improper Registration – Investigation and Penalties

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1447.

HB requires the Motor Vehicle Administration to establish a system to collect information to determine whether a vehicle required to maintain insurance is connected to a Maryland address while being registered in another state. When the information indicates that a Maryland resident has registered a vehicle elsewhere, the Administration may conduct an investigation to ensure compliance with Maryland's vehicle registration requirements.

If the Administration determines that a Maryland resident has failed to properly register a vehicle in the State, the bill authorizes issuance of notice and the assessment of a \$150 penalty, followed by an additional \$500 penalty if the vehicle is not properly registered within 60 days. Penalties collected under the bill are deposited into the Transportation Trust Fund. The legislation also authorizes the Administration to contract with private independent agents to assist in carrying out these enforcement provisions.

Improper vehicle registration undermines equitable tax and fee compliance, limits accountability in traffic enforcement, and reduces resources available for transportation infrastructure. Ensuring that Maryland residents properly register vehicles within the State strengthens fairness and supports the long-term stability of the Transportation Trust Fund, which finances roadway maintenance, transit, and capital improvements across Maryland.

For Baltimore City, where roadway safety and enforcement coordination are critical, improved registration compliance supports traffic accountability efforts and ensures that all residents contribute appropriately to the transportation system they utilize.

For the above stated reasons, the BCA respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 1447.