

**HB 567 – Motor Vehicle Laws – Registration Laws – Registration Plates –
Single Registration Plate
Environment and Transportation Committee
February 19, 2026**

UNFAVORABLE

Dear Chair Korman, Vice-Chair Guyton, and Members of the Committee,

I wish to testify in opposition to HB 567. I'm a member of AFSCME Local 1772, and work as an MCE Production Officer in the Hagerstown Shop. I also serve as the Public Sector Organized Labor Representative on the MCE Management Council.

HB 567 reduces the requirement for the Maryland Vehicle Administration to issue a single registration plate for all classes of vehicles. MCE has a tag shop at our Jessup facility, and this will cut our production in half. I do not believe this should be the leading consideration for this committee when deciding on this bill, the very valid public safety concerns about road safety and having fewer identifying markers on the vehicle should be. I want to tell you the perspective of losing this critical programming for our shop without replacement.

MCE serves as an important structured, work environment for over 1,000 incarcerated individuals in our state prison system annually. MCE provides an opportunity for our incarcerated individuals to receive skills training and to add to their success as returning citizens. Recently, a registered apprenticeship program was approved for the meat-cutting program at one of our shops in Hagerstown. I have seen first-hand the reward our folks feel when they contribute, learn a new skill, and earn money working for MCE. Our incarcerated individuals report that going to work at MCE gives them purpose to get out of bed every morning and stay focused on their goals.

We have nearly 60 incarcerated individuals working in our Tag Licensing Plant in Jessup. HB 567 would cut plate production in Jessup by 50%. I am concerned that making such a substantial reduction, without a replacement, we are setting up our incarcerated to have more idle time. Idle time in a maximum-security prison just leads to less safe conditions for other incarcerated individuals and officers.

For these reasons, I ask for an unfavorable report on HB 567.