



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
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**SB0111**

January 20, 2026

**TO:** Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee  
**FROM:** Nina Themelis, Director of the Mayor's Office of Government Relations  
**RE:** Senate Bill 0111 – Vehicle Laws- Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

**POSITION: FAVORABLE**

Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 0111.

SB 111 would establish a set of processes for addressing vehicles that are not properly registered in the State of Maryland by residents who have lived in the State for more than 60 days. Existing law already requires new residents who have moved to Maryland to register their vehicles with the state within this time period. In Baltimore City and around the State, there has been an increase in the prevalence of out-of-state license plates. The statewide registration requirement is in place to ensure that vehicle owners are in compliance with critical state motor vehicle laws like vehicle emissions testing, insurance requirements, to ensure compliance with administrative penalties for citations, and other important measures intended to promote public safety. This legislation is one of Mayor Brandon M. Scott's legislative priorities for the 2026 Maryland General Assembly session.

While the Baltimore City Administration supports the legislation, the administration would like to note that timeframe and requirements imposed on jurisdictions could prevent meaningful punitive action against long-term violators. To provide a brief overview of the process:

- **Registration Period.** Under current law, when a vehicle owner first moves to Maryland, they must register their vehicle within the first 60 days of moving.
- **Warning Period.** Vehicle owners who receive a warning are given a 60-day window to come into compliance with the law.
- **Fine Period.** Vehicle owners are assessed a fine of \$7 per day that their vehicle remains improperly registered, up to 60 days (a maximum of \$420).
- **Lawsuit.** After a minimum of 180 days of moving into Maryland, vehicle owners may be sued by a county's State's Attorney.

- **Booting/Impounding.** A State’s Attorney may pursue booting or impounding as part of legal action taken against offending vehicle owners.

The 180-day timeframe does not account for potential delays in the identification of improperly registered vehicles; the longer that vehicles are improperly registered, the longer they do not contribute to critical vehicle revenue sources such as registration fees and may not be subject to emissions testing, causing additional air pollution. Additionally, these vehicles may be registered in states fewer or no vehicle insurance requirements, potentially contributing to crashes involving uninsured or underinsured drivers. For example, **between 2023 and 2025 7,075 non-fatal crashes involved out of state (VA specifically) plates. 14 fatal crashes also involved out of state plates (VA) during that same time period.**

During calendar year 2024, Baltimore City Department of Transportation’s Safety Division issued 51,863 parking citations to vehicles with out-of-state tags. 41% (21,044) of the vehicles cited with out of state tags were from one state alone. During calendar year 2025, 68,224 parking citations were issued to out of state vehicles. 48% (32,866) were from one state alone. Additionally, for comparison purposes **81.667%** of camera citations issued to VA tags in 2024 and 63.268% in 2025 are outstanding. This is in comparison to only 23.2% of outstanding camera citations for MD tags in 2024 and 26.5% outstanding in 2025.

The State and the City both have vested interest in determining that vehicles are registered properly to owners who maintain permanent residence within the State of Maryland. This legislation removes uncertainty and creates a well-defined process that provides offending vehicle owners with multiple opportunities to come into compliance. However, the current timeframe and legal requirements preceding booting or impounding prevent jurisdictions from taking action that would more immediately force vehicle owners into compliance. As such, in our support of this legislation, we respectfully request your consideration of these emergent concerns.

For these reasons, the BCA respectfully requests a **favorable** report on SB 111.