

SB0111 Improper Registration Bikemore LOS.pdf

Uploaded by: Jed Weeks

Position: FAV



January 16, 2026

Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

SUPPORT: SB0111 Out of State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Bikemore, Baltimore City's livable streets advocacy organization representing more than 8,000 advocates and the 30% of Baltimoreans who lack access to a car, is writing to support SB0111.

Vehicles registered out-of-state by residents of Maryland are a scourge on our roadways.

Drivers of these vehicles frequently do not carry insurance, drive on expired tags, and excessively speed, causing significant property damage and injury crashes. This dramatically increases car insurance rates for law-abiding Marylanders.

Our state's failure to collect titling and registration revenue on these scofflaw drivers limits our transportation funding, exacerbating the financial burden on law-abiding Maryland taxpayers.

And, without reciprocity agreements, jurisdictions are unable to recover automated enforcement and other financial penalties that would otherwise discourage these drivers from driving recklessly.

In 2024, the top 5 recipients of speed citations in Baltimore City all had Virginia tags. Just these five drivers received over 1,890 citations that year, accruing over \$27,000 in unpaid fines the city cannot recover. These drivers continue to speed with impunity.

Bikemore encourages your support of SB0111 as part of a package of bills that can begin to deal with these bad actors.

Sincerely,

Jed Weeks
Executive Director

SB0111-JPR-FAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nina Themelis

Position: FAV



BRANDON M. SCOTT
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations
88 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

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.

MCPA - MSA SB 111 - Out-of-State Vehicles - Impro

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FAV



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and
Members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 20, 2026

RE: **SB 111 - Vehicle Laws - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT SB 111**. This bill establishes a clear, fair, and enforceable process to address vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly registered in another state.

Law enforcement agencies across the state commonly encounter vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are registered out of state to avoid taxes, insurance requirements, or safety regulations. This practice complicates enforcement efforts.

By establishing a uniform statewide process, this legislation provides clarity for motorists and consistency for law enforcement agencies.

For these reasons, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT SB 111** and urge a **FAVORABLE** committee report.

SB 111 – Favorable.PDF

Uploaded by: Shamoyia Gardiner

Position: FAV

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BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21202

Honorable Chair Smith and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings committee,

I write to you in support of Senate Bill 111, Vehicle Laws – Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration. This legislation is a priority for both Mayor Scott and my office, as it would improve our ability to manage public safety within our city limits.

Currently, our ability to enforce the roadway safety, not limited to speeding and parking violations, is hampered by our agencies' inability to hold a subset of drivers accountable for the impact they have on our residents and communities.

I urge the committee to vote favorably on this bill. Please contact my office with any further questions.

CC: Shamoyia Gardiner, Deputy Chief of Staff and Legislative Director

SB 111 - registration civil.pdf

Uploaded by: Kirsten Brown

Position: FWA

Ivan Bates
President



Kirsten N. Brown
Coordinator

Maryland State's Attorneys' Association
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Ellicott City, Maryland 21043
kbrown@mdsaa.org ~ 301-748-1312

DATE: January 15, 2026

BILL NUMBER: SB 111

POSITION: Favorable with Amendments

It is the position of MSAA that out of State vehicles should be properly registered in Maryland and therefore there is support for accomplishing that end. It is the position of MSAA that there is not a need for the State's Attorneys to file civil matters to accomplish this result. It is anticipated the State's Attorneys would be required to pay the filing fees, perhaps the costs of getting the registered owner served or the costs of substituted service if the local Sheriff's Office is not able to effect service. In addition to time spent handling these hearings if they are litigated in court.

It is the position of MSAA that this is more appropriate for a County Attorney or City Attorney to be the party who files these claims, if necessary. They typically handle civil matters in their work, as opposed to State's Attorneys who practice criminal law.

The MSAA is respectfully urging removal of the provision for State's Attorneys to file civil actions for these matters.

SB0111 - MVA - Vehicle Laws - Out-of-State Vehicle

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

January 20, 2026

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 111 – Vehicle Laws - Out-of-State Vehicles - Improper Registration

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 111 and offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

SB 111 authorizes the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to impose a civil penalty against a vehicle owner when probable cause exists in violation of Maryland registration laws requiring a vehicle to be registered in Maryland or demonstrate that the vehicle is exempt. After an initial 60-day grace period, failure to comply with the law results in a penalty of \$7 per day. The penalty is capped at 60 days, for a maximum fine of \$420. After 120 days from the first action, the MVA must notify the local State’s Attorney to seek civil action in rem.

Improper vehicle registration is not a victimless practice and represents a significant problem for the State of Maryland and its residents. Motor vehicle registration and miscellaneous vehicle fees account for 17% of the Transportation Trust Fund’s (TTF) revenue, which funds critical infrastructure projects throughout the State. In addition, improperly registered vehicles create the risk that these vehicles may not carry minimum insurance coverage, participate in the vehicle emissions inspection program, nor comply with automated traffic citations. Addressing this issue is an important topic for ensuring the health of the TTF, compliance with clean air standards, and the safety and quality of life in Maryland.

Currently, MVA Investigations visits the reported location of a vehicle suspected to be out of compliance and attempts to speak with the owner. Where the owner is confirmed to be a Maryland resident, a 60-day notice to register the vehicle in Maryland is provided. If an owner does not comply within the required timeframe, further action (such as seizure of the-out of-state registration tags) is taken in partnership with local law enforcement.

By contrast to the current procedure of establishing a violation through in-person verification with a vehicle owner, SB 111 does not establish a clear definition of what probable cause is in the enforcement of SB 111’s provisions. It also does not provide clear authority for the MVA to submit accrued civil penalties a vehicle owner refuses to pay within a timely manner to the State’s Central Collections Unit, potentially reducing the effectiveness of imposing the fine should a vehicle owner refuse to comply with the Administration.

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
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Additionally, the 60-day timeline mirrors existing statutory requirements before fines begin to accrue but will likely prove difficult for many violators to comply within, further setting them back from meeting compliance. Over the past two years, the MVA has filed Freedom of Information Acts for Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) records and requested information on motor vehicles registered with the Virginia DMV by an owner using an address in Maryland. In reviewing data received in 2025, the MVA has been able to identify that many of these vehicles and/or the owners have indicators (ie. administrative flags, insurance lapse, etc.) on their accounts that prevent registration without resolving these indicators. The MVA is sending letters to 58,000 individuals representing 73,000 vehicles notifying them that they are potentially out of compliance with Maryland law. For example, data showed 28,003 vehicles that were previously registered in Maryland and had switched to Virginia. Over 50% of these vehicles had indicators on their Maryland record that would prevent registration and 99.98% of all vehicles were also out of compliance with Virginia safety inspections. Given the concern with safety inspection issues along with the outstanding unresolved administrative flags preventing renewal, these owners are unlikely to resolve these outstanding issues within 60 days, triggering further financial penalties that could result in delays in meeting registration requirements.

From a safety perspective, over 2,000 of the identified vehicles were tied to over 2,500 crashes in Maryland that occurred between January 1, 2024, and November 18, 2025. Over 1,900 of these crashes resulted in property damage, over 500 resulted in injuries, and five (5) resulted in fatalities.

Finally, the MVA has been able to obtain such records from the Virginia DMV through cooperation and partnership between neighboring jurisdictions. However, the ability to share this information with the MVA is subject to limitations within the laws of the Commonwealth. The MVA will continue outreach to Maryland residents about State law with direct correspondence, public education campaigns, and working with the General Assembly to reduce the number of improperly registered vehicles in out-of-state jurisdictions. The MVA is committed to working with committee to develop policy solutions that directly address this important matter.

The Maryland Department of Transportation looks forward to working with the member to address this issue and respectfully requests the committee consider this information during its deliberation of Senate Bill 111.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine E. Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler
Director of Government Affairs
Maryland Department of Transportation
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