

Chapter 648

(House Bill 332)

AN ACT concerning

~~Baltimore City – Out-of-State Motor Vehicles – Improper Registration – Report~~

FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing Baltimore City to tow, remove, or impound a vehicle owned by a new resident of the State who fails to register the vehicle with the Motor Vehicle Administration and display valid registration plates issued by the Administration within a certain time period; and generally relating to towing, removal, and impounding of improperly registered out of state vehicles in Baltimore City requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration, in consultation with Baltimore City and other interested jurisdictions, to prepare a certain report on motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly titled or registered in another state; and generally relating to a report on motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly titled or registered in another state.~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 13-402(a) and (c)(7) and 26-301(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

~~BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 26-301(b-1)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article – Transportation~~

~~13-402.~~

~~(a) (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or elsewhere in the Maryland Vehicle Law, each motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, and pole trailer driven on a highway shall be registered under this subtitle.~~

~~(2) If a motor vehicle required to be registered under this subtitle is not registered, a person may not park the unregistered motor vehicle on any:~~

~~(i) Public alley, street, or highway; or~~

~~(ii) Private property used by the public in general, including parking lots of shopping centers, condominiums, apartments, or town house developments.~~

~~(3) The provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection do not apply to a motor vehicle that is exempt from registration under this section or § 13-402.1 of this subtitle.~~

~~(e) Registration under this subtitle is not required for:~~

~~(7) A vehicle owned by a new resident of this State during the first 60 days of residency provided the vehicle displays valid registration issued by the jurisdiction of the resident's former domicile;~~

~~26-301.~~

~~(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, any State agency authorized by law and any political subdivision of this State may adopt ordinances or regulations that:~~

~~(1) Regulate the parking of vehicles;~~

~~(2) Provide for the impounding of vehicles parked in violation of the ordinances or regulations;~~

~~(3) Regulate the towing of vehicles from publicly owned and privately owned parking lots; and~~

~~(4) Provide for the issuance of a citation by an officer for a violation of an ordinance or regulation that is adopted under this section.~~

~~(B-1) (1) THIS SUBSECTION APPLIES ONLY IN BALTIMORE CITY.~~

~~(2) BALTIMORE CITY MAY TOW, REMOVE, OR IMPOUND A VEHICLE OWNED BY A NEW RESIDENT OF THE STATE WHO FAILS TO REGISTER THE VEHICLE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPLAY VALID REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION WITHIN 60 DAYS AS REQUIRED UNDER § 13-402 OF THIS ARTICLE.~~

(a) The Motor Vehicle Administration, in consultation with Baltimore City and other interested jurisdictions, shall prepare a report on motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly registered in another state.

(b) The report shall include:

(1) an analysis of the legal basis, both statutory and regulatory, that:

(i) requires Maryland residents to obtain Maryland vehicle titles or registrations for motor vehicles owned by them;

(ii) enables Maryland residents to improperly title or register their motor vehicles in other states; and

(iii) allows Maryland residents to lawfully title or register their motor vehicles in other states under certain circumstances, if applicable;

(2) a listing of other states that allow Maryland residents to title or register their motor vehicles in their states;

(3) an analysis of the incentives that Maryland residents may have to improperly title or register their motor vehicles in other states;

(4) current statistics and recent trends on the number of motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly titled or registered in other states, in total and by county;

(5) a description of:

(i) any recent and planned enforcement actions taken or to be taken by the Administration with respect to motor vehicles improperly titled or registered to Maryland residents by other states;

(ii) the number and nature of any misdemeanors charged for failure to obtain a Maryland motor vehicle title or registration that were initiated through an Administration investigation into motor vehicles owned by Maryland residents that are improperly titled or registered in other states; and

(iii) the effectiveness of the enforcement actions;

(6) a description of the harms caused by motor vehicles improperly titled or registered to Maryland residents by other states, including decreased State revenue associated with vehicle titling and registration and the circumvention of the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program;

(7) an analysis of motor vehicle insurance issues related to motor vehicles improperly titled or registered to Maryland residents by other states, including:

(i) the effect on the uninsured and under-insured driving rates in Maryland;

(ii) the effect on motor vehicle insurance rates in Maryland; and

(iii) how recent changes to Virginia laws governing motor vehicle insurance requirements may affect or have affected these matters and matters related to motor vehicles improperly titled or registered to Maryland residents by Virginia;

(8) a comparison with neighboring states of Maryland's laws, enforcement actions, and relevant fee structures on these matters; and

(9) recommendations to address motor vehicles improperly titled or registered to Maryland residents by other states, including, as appropriate:

(i) any additional penalties or other enforcement mechanisms;

(ii) any possible interstate agreements; or

(iii) any other proposals the Administration considers beneficial, including any legislative or regulatory proposals.

(c) On or before December 1, 2024, the Administration shall submit a report of its findings on, and recommendations for addressing, issues related to motor vehicles improperly titled or registered to Maryland residents by other states to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect ~~October~~ June 1, 2024. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, May 9, 2024.