

HOUSE BILL 1264

R4

0lr2284

By: **Delegates Mautz, Cox, and Hornberger**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Registration Plates**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to issue a single
4 registration plate to all classes of vehicles; providing for the method of attachment
5 of the registration plate; making certain conforming changes, a certain stylistic
6 change, and a certain technical correction; requiring the publisher of the Annotated
7 Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the
8 Department of Legislative Services, to make certain corrections and to describe any
9 corrections made in an editor's note following the section affected; prohibiting
10 persons who are issued a Class L (historic) registration plate from violating the terms
11 of issuance; providing for the issuance of a warning for a first violation of a certain
12 provision of this Act; and generally relating to vehicle registration plates.

13 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
14 Article – Transportation
15 Section 13–410 and 13–411
16 Annotated Code of Maryland
17 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

18 BY adding to
19 Article – Transportation
20 Section 13–703(i)
21 Annotated Code of Maryland
22 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

25 **Article – Transportation**

26 13–410.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(a) (1) [Except as otherwise provided in this title, when] **WHEN** it registers a vehicle, the Administration shall issue [to the owner:

(i) One] **ONE** registration plate[, if the vehicle is:

1. A Class D (motorcycle) vehicle;

2. A Class F (tractor) vehicle;

3. A Class G (trailer) vehicle;

4. A Class L (historic) vehicle that was manufactured at least 50 years before the current model year; or

5. A Class N (street rod) vehicle that was manufactured at least 50 years before the current model year; and

(ii) Two registration plates for every other vehicle] **TO THE OWNER OF THE VEHICLE.**

(2) [However, as to temporary registration, the] **THE** Administration may provide for the issuance of [only] one temporary registration plate for any vehicle.

(b) (1) [Each] **THE** registration plate shall display:

(i) The registration number assigned to the vehicle for which it is issued; and

(ii) The name of this State, which may be abbreviated.

(2) The registration number may consist of letters, numerals, or both.

(c) (1) This subsection applies only to the following vehicles:

(i) A Class A (passenger) vehicle;

(ii) A Class E (truck) vehicle registered or capable of registration under § 13–917 of this title; and

(iii) A Class M (multipurpose) vehicle.

(2) At the option of the registered owner of a vehicle for which A registration [plates are] **PLATE IS** issued under this title, in addition to the information otherwise required to be shown on the registration [plates] **PLATE**, the registration [plates] **PLATE** may display a sticker indicating the name of the county, including Baltimore City,

1 in which the owner of the vehicle resides.

2 (3) The Administration shall:

3 (i) Approve a sticker design option that complies with paragraph (2)
4 of this subsection; and

5 (ii) Offer to each vehicle owner applying for A new or replacement
6 registration [plates] PLATE under this title the option to select a sticker that displays the
7 owner's county of residence.

8 (4) In addition to the annual registration fee otherwise required under this
9 title, the Administration may charge a fee, not to exceed its costs, for issuing or replacing
10 the county sticker offered under this subsection.

11 (5) A vehicle owner may not display stickers that show a county name other
12 than the owner's county of residence.

13 (6) A county sticker issued under this subsection may not be placed on a
14 special registration plate or a commemorative registration plate issued under Subtitle 6 of
15 this title.

16 (d) Registration plates may be reflectorized and shall be manufactured of a
17 material warranted to have a durability of at least 5 years. However, prior to registration
18 plates being reflectorized, the Administration shall obtain approval of the General
19 Assembly through a budget item.

20 (e) (1) During subsequent registration years, the Administrator may order the
21 continued use of registration plates that are valid during any current registration year,
22 and, after so doing, the Administrator shall issue, at the time a vehicle's registration is
23 renewed, a validation tab to evidence payment of the vehicle's annual registration fee.

24 (2) The tab shall be displayed on the [plates] PLATE of the vehicle in the
25 manner that the Administrator requires.

26 (3) The Administrator from time to time shall evaluate the condition of
27 registration plates issued under this title and may provide for the manufacture and
28 issuance of new registration plates. These new registration plates shall be issued and
29 subsequently validated in the manner required by this subtitle.

30 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, the
31 Administration may issue reflectorized registration plates under §§ 13-618 and
32 13-619 of this title.

33 (g) The dimensions of a registration plate issued for a Class D (motorcycle) vehicle
34 shall be 7 inches wide by 4 inches high.

(h) A registration plate that is required to be returned to the Administration may be returned through the mail.

13-411.

(a) [On a vehicle for which two registration plates are required, one plate shall be attached on the front and the other on the rear of the vehicle.

(b) On a vehicle for which one registration plate is required, the] **THE REGISTRATION** plate shall be attached on the:

(1) Front of the vehicle for a Class F (tractor) vehicle; and

(2) Rear of the vehicle for every other vehicle.

[(c)] (B) At all times, [each] **THE** registration plate shall be:

(1) Maintained free from foreign materials, including A registration plate [covers] **COVER** as defined in § 13-411.1 of this subtitle, and in a condition to be clearly legible; and

(2) Securely fastened to the vehicle for which it is issued:

(i) In a horizontal position;

(ii) In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

(iii) In a place and position to be clearly visible.

[(d)] (C) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, a person may not drive the vehicle on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to the vehicle and displayed on it, as required in this title:

(1) A registration plate [or plates] issued for the vehicle by the Administration for the current registration period; and

(2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

[(e)] (D) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, as to any vehicle required to be registered under this title, the owner of the vehicle may not permit the vehicle to be driven on any highway in this State, unless there is attached to and displayed on the vehicle, as required in this title:

(1) A registration plate [or plates] issued by the Administration for the current registration period; and

(2) Any validation tab issued for the vehicle under this subtitle.

[(f)] (E) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a vehicle used or driven in this State may not display on either its front or rear any expired registration plate issued by any state.

[(g)] (F) Except as otherwise expressly permitted by the Maryland Vehicle Law, a person may not display or permit to be displayed on any vehicle used or driven in this State any registration plate issued for another vehicle or to a person other than the owner of the vehicle.

[(h)] (G) (1) A vehicle registered as a historic or antique vehicle (Class L) in this State or in another state, when used or driven in this State, may display vintage registration plates as an indication of the historic or antique nature of the vehicle. Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the place on the vehicle provided for the display of A registration [plates] **PLATE** may only be used for the display of **THE** current registration [plates] **PLATE** in accordance with subsections (a) [through (c)] **AND (B)** of this section, and any vintage registration plates which are used shall be displayed elsewhere on the vehicle.

(2) If the Administration authorizes the display of vintage registration plates in lieu of **THE** current registration [plates] **PLATE**, as provided in § 13–936.1 of this title, the vintage registration plates shall be displayed as required under subsections (a) [through (c)] **AND (B)** of this section. However, the current registration [plates] **PLATE** shall be kept in the vehicle at all times.

[(i)] (H) It is the duty of every police officer to report to the Administration all vehicles operated in violation of this section. The Administration shall verify whether the owner of a reported vehicle has complied with this section.

13–703.

(I) (1) AS TO ANY CLASS L (HISTORIC) VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATE ISSUED TO A PERSON UNDER § 13–936 OF THIS TITLE, THE PERSON MAY NOT KNOWINGLY VIOLATE THE TERMS OF THE ISSUANCE.

(2) A FIRST VIOLATION OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE ENFORCED BY THE ISSUANCE OF A WARNING.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That any reference in the Annotated Code of Maryland to multiple registration plates rendered obsolete by this Act shall be corrected by the publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with and subject to the approval of the Department of Legislative Services, with no further action required by the General Assembly. The publisher shall adequately describe any correction made under this section in an editor's note following the section affected.

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2020.