

HOUSE BILL 200

R4

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By: **Delegates W. Fisher, Anderson, Bartlett, Crutchfield, D.M. Davis, Henson, Malone, and Pippy**

Introduced and read first time: January 16, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Registration Plate Frames and Borders – Enforcement**

3 FOR the purpose of providing for enforcement only as a secondary offense for a violation
4 involving registration plate frames or borders of the requirement to maintain vehicle
5 registration plates to be free from foreign material and to be clearly legible; and
6 generally relating to the enforcement of vehicle laws involving registration plate
7 frames and borders.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – Transportation
10 Section 13–411(a)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

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

20 **Article – Transportation**

21 13–411.

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(c) **(1)** At all times, each registration plate shall be:

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

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

[(i)] 1. In a horizontal position;

[(ii)] 2. In a manner that prevents the plate from swinging; and

[(iii)] 3. In a place and position to be clearly visible.

(2) FOR A VIOLATION INVOLVING THE PLACEMENT OF AN OBJECT FRAMING OR BORDERING THE EDGES OF A REGISTRATION PLATE, A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THIS SUBSECTION ONLY AS A SECONDARY ACTION WHEN THE POLICE OFFICER DETAINS A DRIVER OF A MOTOR VEHICLE FOR A SUSPECTED VIOLATION OF ANOTHER PROVISION OF THE CODE.

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