

HOUSE BILL 750

R4, R5

4lr1700
CF SB 10

By: **Delegates Ziegler, Allen, Guzzone, and Wu**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2024

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2024

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – ~~Damaged, Obscured, or Modified~~ Registration Plates**

3 FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Motor Vehicle Administration to offer during the~~
4 ~~registration renewal process to replace certain vehicle registration plates that are~~
5 ~~more than a certain age; altering the prohibition against prohibiting a person from~~
6 ~~obscuring or modifying a vehicle registration plate by prohibiting such activity in a~~
7 ~~manner that may prevent identification; altering the penalty and points assessment~~
8 ~~for obscuring or modifying a vehicle registration plate; and generally relating to~~
9 ~~damaged, obscured, or modified vehicle registration plates.~~

10 ~~BY renumbering~~

11 ~~Article – Transportation~~

12 ~~Section 16–402(a)(17) through (43)~~

13 ~~to be Section 16–402(a)(18) through (44), respectively~~

14 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

15 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

16 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

17 Article – Transportation

18 Section 21–1112.1

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

21 BY adding to

22 Article – Transportation

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



Section ~~13-418 and 16-402(a)(17)~~ 21-1112.2
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article — Transportation
Section 21-1112.1
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
~~That Section(s) 16-402(a)(17) through (43) of Article — Transportation of the Annotated
Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 16-402(a)(18) through (44), respectively.~~

~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED;~~ That the Laws of Maryland read
as follows:

Article – Transportation

~~13-418.~~

~~(A) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE
ISSUED UNDER SUBTITLE 6 OF THIS TITLE.~~

~~(B) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL:~~

~~(1) DURING THE REGISTRATION RENEWAL PROCESS, OFFER TO
REPLACE ANY VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES THAT ARE MORE THAN 15 YEARS
OLD;~~

~~(2) MAIL OR DELIVER THE NEW REGISTRATION PLATES TO THE
OWNER; AND~~

~~(3) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.~~

~~16-402.~~

~~(a) After the conviction of an individual for a violation of Title 2, Subtitle 5, §
2-209, § 3-211, or § 10-110 of the Criminal Law Article, or of the vehicle laws or regulations
of this State or of any local authority, points shall be assessed against the individual as of
the date of violation and as follows:~~

~~(17) A VIOLATION OF § 21-1112.1 OF THIS ARTICLE..... 3 POINTS~~

21-1112.1.

(a) A person may not obscure or modify any vehicle registration plate ~~with intent to avoid identification~~ ~~IN A MANNER THAT MAY PREVENT IDENTIFICATION.~~

(b) ~~A violation of this section is a moving violation for the purpose of the assessment of points under § 16-402 of this article.~~ ~~A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION SHALL BE:~~

21-1112.2.

(A) A PERSON MAY NOT OBSCURE OR MODIFY ANY VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATE IN A MANNER THAT MAY PREVENT IDENTIFICATION.

(B) A POLICE OFFICER MAY ENFORCE THIS SECTION 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.

(C) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES THIS SECTION SHALL BE:

(1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ISSUED A WARNING NOTICE; AND

(2) FOR A SECOND OR SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE COMMITTED AT LEAST 60 DAYS AFTER ISSUANCE OF A WARNING NOTICE, ASSESSED POINTS UNDER § 16-402 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION ~~2~~ 2 AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.