

HOUSE BILL 219

R4, R7
HB 332/24 – ENT

(PRE-FILED)

5lr0673
CF 5lr3161

By: ~~Delegate Addison~~ Delegates Addison, Allen, Boyce, Foley, Healey, Holmes, Lehman, R. Lewis, J. Long, T. Morgan, Ruth, Stein, Stewart, Terrasa, and Ziegler

Requested: August 12, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: February 25, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Baltimore City~~ Vehicle Laws – Out-of-State Vehicles – Improper Registration

3 FOR the purpose of ~~authorizing Baltimore City to tow, remove, or impound a vehicle owned~~
4 ~~by a new resident of the State who fails to register the vehicle with the Motor Vehicle~~
5 ~~Administration and display valid registration plates issued by the Administration~~
6 ~~within a certain time period~~ establishing a certain process for bringing vehicles
7 owned by State residents that are improperly registered in another state into
8 compliance with the Maryland Vehicle Law; and generally relating to towing,
9 ~~removal, and impounding of~~ improperly registered out-of-state vehicles in
10 ~~Baltimore City.~~

11 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
12 Article – Transportation
13 Section 13–402(a) and (c)(7) and 26–301(b)
14 Annotated Code of Maryland
15 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

16 BY adding to
17 Article – Transportation
18 Section 26–301(b–1)
19 Annotated Code of Maryland
20 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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 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.

(c) 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.~~

(B-1) (1) IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER PENALTY PROVIDED FOR IN THE MARYLAND VEHICLE LAW, IF THE ADMINISTRATION HAS PROBABLE CAUSE TO BELIEVE THAT A VEHICLE OWNER IS A RESIDENT OF THE STATE AND HAS FAILED TO PROPERLY REGISTER THE VEHICLE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPLAY VALID REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION ON THE VEHICLE, THE VEHICLE OWNER IS SUBJECT TO A WARNING REQUIRING THE VEHICLE OWNER, WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER ISSUANCE OF THE WARNING, TO:

(I) PROPERLY REGISTER THE VEHICLE WITH THE ADMINISTRATION AND DISPLAY VALID REGISTRATION PLATES ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; OR

(II) PROVIDE PROOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE VEHICLE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED IN THE STATE.

(2) (I) IF THE VEHICLE OWNER PROVIDES PROOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE VEHICLE IS NOT REQUIRED TO BE REGISTERED IN THE STATE, IF APPLICABLE AS DETERMINED BY THE ADMINISTRATION, THE VEHICLE OWNER SHALL OBTAIN AND DISPLAY ON THE VEHICLE A NONRESIDENT PERMIT ISSUED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

(II) IF, WITHIN 60 DAYS AFTER ISSUANCE OF A WARNING UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, THE VEHICLE OWNER FAILS TO PROPERLY REGISTER THE VEHICLE AND DISPLAY VALID REGISTRATION PLATES ON THE VEHICLE OR PROVIDE PROOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE ADMINISTRATION THAT REGISTRATION IN THE STATE IS NOT REQUIRED, THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ASSESS A CIVIL FINE AGAINST THE VEHICLE OF \$7 PER DAY FOR UP TO 60 DAYS OR UNTIL THE VEHICLE IS PROPERLY REGISTERED AND DISPLAYING VALID REGISTRATION PLATES OR THE ADMINISTRATION DETERMINES THAT THE VEHICLE IS NOT SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION IN THE STATE.

(3) (I) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL JURISDICTION IF A VEHICLE OWNER FAILS, WITHIN 120 DAYS AFTER ISSUANCE OF A WARNING UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, TO PROPERLY REGISTER THE VEHICLE AND DISPLAY VALID REGISTRATION PLATES ON THE VEHICLE OR SATISFY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE VEHICLE IS NOT SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION IN THE STATE.

1 (II) THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY MAY
2 BRING A CIVIL ACTION IN REM AGAINST A VEHICLE FOR WHICH THE VEHICLE OWNER
3 FAILS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION TO PROPERLY REGISTER AND DISPLAY VALID
4 REGISTRATION PLATES OR TO SATISFY THE ADMINISTRATION THAT THE VEHICLE IS
5 NOT SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION IN THE STATE.

6 (III) IN A CIVIL ACTION IN REM BROUGHT UNDER THIS
7 SUBSECTION, THE APPROPRIATE COUNTY STATE’S ATTORNEY MAY SEEK
8 IMMOBILIZATION OF THE VEHICLE BY TOWING OR REMOVAL AND IMPOUNDMENT,
9 OR BOOTING.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
11 October 1, 2025.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.