

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2026, Legislative Day No. 18

Bill No. 101-26

Mr. Michael Ertel, Chairman
By Request of County Executive

By the County Council, October 5, 2026

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Improper Out-of-State Registration – Enforcement

FOR the purpose of establishing the scope of a certain enforcement framework in Baltimore County relating to improperly registered motor vehicles; authorizing certain County employees and agents to take possession of certain out-of-state registration plates displayed on parked motor vehicles under certain circumstances; authorizing the County attorney to bring a certain civil action under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the enforcement of motor vehicle registration requirements in Baltimore County.

BY adding

Section 18-1-101(e)
Article 18 – Transportation
Title 1 – In General
Baltimore County Code, 2015

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 18-2-708
Article 18 – Transportation
Title 2 – Vehicles and Traffic
Subtitle 7 – Enforcement
Baltimore County Code, 2015

BY adding

Sections 18-7-101 and 18-7102 to be under the new title
“Title 7 – Improper Out-of-State Registration”
Article 18 – Transportation
Baltimore County Code, 2015

WHEREAS, Baltimore County has a compelling interest in ensuring that motor vehicles are registered and operated in compliance with Maryland law; and

WHEREAS, motor vehicles that are improperly registered in another jurisdiction may cause significant costs for the community, including raising insurance premiums for Maryland drivers and contributing to uncompensated losses from vehicle crashes; and

WHEREAS, improperly registered vehicles evade Maryland’s emissions testing requirements and can avoid payment of speeding and parking violations issued in this State; and

WHEREAS, improper out-of-state registration deprives the State and the County of titling and registration revenue that funds essential public services, including emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, law enforcement agencies have identified improperly registered vehicles as a significant impediment to the enforcement of traffic laws and the collection of administrative penalties for traffic safety violations; and

WHEREAS, in some circumstances the use of a boot instead of towing and impoundment of motor vehicles may be more cost-effective for the County and for vehicle owners; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Department of Transportation has initiated a new “Plate Where You Live” campaign, to require Maryland residents to register their vehicles in Maryland and establish fines for those whose vehicles are registered in another state in violation of Maryland law; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the County Council to establish a local law to address these issues, and promote public safety, fiscal responsibility, and the efficient enforcement of the State Vehicle Laws; now therefore

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND, that the laws of Baltimore County shall read as follows:

ARTICLE 18 – TRANSPORTATION

Title 1 – In General

§ 18-1-101. Definitions.

(E) “BOOT” MEANS A DEVICE THAT IS ATTACHED TO A MOTOR VEHICLE TO IMMOBILIZE THE VEHICLE AND PREVENT ITS OPERATION, OR THE ACT OF ATTACHING SUCH A DEVICE TO A MOTOR VEHICLE.

Title 2 – Vehicles and Traffic

Subtitle 7 – Enforcement

§ 18-2-708. Impoundment of vehicle.

1 (a) If a vehicle has three parking citations that have not been paid, not less than 30 days
2 after the date for paying the third of the three citations has passed without payment, the Chief of
3 Police may impound the vehicle.

4 (b) The Chief of Police may take possession of and remove the vehicle from any road,
5 highway, street, avenue, alley, off-street parking meter lot, or private property used by the
6 general public in accordance with the provisions and fees or penalties required under this title.

7 (C) A POLICE OFFICER OR OTHER COUNTY EMPLOYEE OR AGENT
8 DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER MAY USE A BOOT TO
9 IMMOBILIZE A MOTOR VEHICLE UNDER THIS SECTION.

10 (D) THE COUNTY MAY BOOT A MOTOR VEHICLE BY MEANS OF COUNTY
11 EQUIPMENT OR BY CONTRACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PURCHASING
12 PROVISIONS OF THE CODE.

13 (E) (1) TO DEFRAID THE COSTS OF IMMOBILIZING A MOTOR VEHICLE
14 WITH A BOOT, THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER MAY ADOPT AND
15 AMEND A SCHEDULE OF REASONABLE CHARGES TO BE PAID BY THE OWNER OF
16 AN IMMOBILIZED VEHICLE BEFORE THE BOOT MAY BE REMOVED.

17 (2) BEFORE THE BOOT MAY BE REMOVED, THE OWNER SHALL PAY
18 THE CHARGES IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION IN ADDITION TO ANY OTHER FINE
19 OR PENALTY IMPOSED FOR THE VIOLATION OF ANY TRAFFIC OR VEHICLE LAW
20 OR REGULATION.

21 (F) IF AN OWNER FAILS TO PAY THE REQUIRED CHARGES FOR BOOT
22 REMOVAL WITHIN 10 CALENDAR DAYS AFTER THE BOOT IS AFFIXED, THE CHIEF

1 OF POLICE MAY TAKE POSSESSION OF AND REMOVE THE VEHICLE AS PROVIDED
2 IN THIS SUBTITLE.

3
4 Title 7 – Improper Out-of-State Registration
5

6 § 18-7-101. AUTHORITY TO TAKE POSSESSION OF A REGISTRATION PLATE.

7 IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 26–301 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE OF
8 THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND, A POLICE OFFICER OR OTHER COUNTY
9 EMPLOYEE OR AGENT DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
10 MAY TAKE POSSESSION OF A REGISTRATION PLATE THAT HAS BEEN ISSUED BY
11 ANOTHER JURISDICTION BUT IS BEING DISPLAYED ON A PARKED VEHICLE IF:

12 (1) THE REGISTERED OWNER OF THE VEHICLE HAS BEEN A
13 RESIDENT OF MARYLAND FOR MORE THAN 60 DAYS; AND

14 (2) (I) THE OWNER HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH 2 OR MORE
15 TRAFFIC CITATIONS ISSUED IN THIS STATE, INCLUDING CITATIONS GENERATED
16 BY AUTOMATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS;

17 (II) THE OWNER’S LICENSE OR PRIVILEGE TO DRIVE IN THIS
18 STATE IS SUSPENDED FOR FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT; OR

19 (III) THE VEHICLE’S REGISTRATION HAS, AT ANY POINT, BEEN
20 SUSPENDED FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS OR MORE DUE TO A LAPSE IN
21 REQUIRED INSURANCE COVERAGE.

22
23 § 18-7-102. IMPOUNDMENT OR IMMOBILIZATION OF A MOTOR VEHICLE.

1 (A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A POLICE OFFICER OR
2 OTHER COUNTY EMPLOYEE OR AGENT DESIGNATED BY THE COUNTY
3 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER MAY:

4 (1) IMPOUND A MOTOR VEHICLE BY TOWING AND REMOVAL; OR

5 (2) IMMOBILIZE A MOTOR VEHICLE BY BOOTING.

6 (B) A MOTOR VEHICLE MAY NOT BE IMPOUNDED OR IMMOBILIZED UNDER
7 THIS SECTION UNLESS THE COUNTY OBTAINS A COURT ORDER UNDER § 26-301
8 OF THE TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND
9 BECAUSE OF THE OWNER'S FAILURE TO EITHER:

10 (1) PROPERLY REGISTER AND DISPLAY VALID MARYLAND
11 REGISTRATION PLATES; OR

12 (2) SATISFY THE MARYLAND MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION
13 THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE IS NOT SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION IN THIS STATE.

14 (C) ANY IMPOUNDMENT OR IMMOBILIZATION SHALL BE GOVERNED BY §§
15 18-2-708 AND 18-2-710 OF THE CODE.

16 (D) A MOTOR VEHICLE IMPOUNDED OR IMMOBILIZED UNDER THIS
17 SECTION SHALL NOT BE RELEASED UNTIL THE OWNER HAS PAID THE CHARGES
18 AND ANY FINES OR PENALTIES REQUIRED UNDER § 18-2-708 OF THE CODE.

19
20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by
21 the affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect immediately from
22 the date of its enactment.