

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 650

(Senator Young)

Judicial Proceedings

Vehicle Laws - Title Service Agents - Out-of-State Vehicle Titles and Registrations

This bill prohibits title service agents (including agents and employees of title service agents) from performing a service related to an out-of-state title, registration, or registration plate for a vehicle that is required to be titled and registered in Maryland.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: State law defines a “title service agent” as any person in the business of transporting to and from the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) certificates of title, registrations, driver’s licenses, certified copies of records, and other related documents. MVA oversees the licensing process for title service agents.

A title service agent (including agents and employees of title service agents) may not:

- make any material misrepresentation on any MVA form;
- misrepresent any material fact in obtaining a license;

- willfully fail to notify MVA of any change in the ownership, management, name, or location of the business conducted under the license;
- fail to account for (and remit to) MVA any fees received for any certificates of title, registrations, driver's licenses, certified copies of records, or other related documents;
- conduct any title service agency business with (or through) any person required to be licensed under State law if the title service agent knows that the person is not licensed;
- willfully violate any provision of the Maryland Vehicle Law that relates to the business of a title service agent; or
- willfully fail to comply with any rule, regulation, or lawful order adopted by MVA.

Background: MVA advised for past legislation that title service agents offer titling and registration services in exchange for a higher fee than MVA would charge. Even so, especially given their prevalence, use of a title service agent is often a convenient alternative to making an in-person MVA transaction. MVA maintains an online directory of licensed title service agents [on its website](#).

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

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mr/ljm

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