



**State of Maryland**  
**Department of State Police**  
Government Affairs Section  
Annapolis Office (410) 260-6100

**POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

**DATE:** February 26, 2020

**BILL NUMBER:** House Bill 1148      **POSITION:** Letter of Information

**BILL TITLE:** Vehicle Laws – Military Surplus Vehicles – Registration and Operations

**REVIEW AND ANALYSIS:**

This legislation seeks to establish standards and procedures for the registration of military surplus vehicles. The legislation provides for a one-time registration fee. It also requires the new owner to show proof the vehicle met a certain safety standard prior to the registration of the vehicle.

The Department is required to establish safety standards that comply and meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for all vehicles that are registered in the State. Many of the vehicles offered for sale to the public are built so they can be easily inspected and registered for roadway use; for example, pickup trucks, large trucks, and trailer. Other military vehicles were not designed for roadway use, but could easily be modified or retrofitted to comply with the safety features required for roadway use. For example; doors, seat belts, windshield etc. that are not on all-terrain vehicles (Jeeps, Humvees etc.) or some large trucks.

While the Department is in full support of ensuring all registered vehicles meet a safety standard, some of the military surplus vehicles were designed specifically for military use and never intended to be driven on a roadway; for example, tanks, large armored personnel carrier etc. If these vehicles are included in the program, the Department would have to establish a safety standard that is not addressed in the FMVSS and would put the safety of other drivers and pedestrians at risk. The Department believes these types of vehicles should be excluded from the registration process for roadway use. If a citizen wanted to purchase one of these vehicles for off-road use, that could be the exception to ownership but not roadway use.