

**09-16-04**

**Date:** September 30, 2016  
**Bulletin:** All Dealers & Tag & Title Services  
**From:** Business Licensing and Consumer Services

A number of motor vehicle laws passed by the Maryland General Assembly during their 2016 session will take effect on Saturday, October 1, 2016, including legislation on carrying proof of insurance coverage and high occupancy vehicle (HOV) permits.

### **SB 0544 & HB 0720 - Motor Vehicle Insurance - Insurance Identification Card - Carrying Proof of Coverage - Uninsured Motorist Education and Enforcement Fund**

This law requires drivers to possess, or carry in their automobile, a current insurance identification card issued by their insurance carrier. The insurance identification card may be in tangible (paper, plastic, etc.) or in an electronic format. A person who violates this requirement can be fined \$50. The bill provides for a delayed implementation of the fine, which will start on July 1, 2017.

[Link to this bill on the Maryland General Assembly website](#)

### **HB1179 Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug-In Electric Drive and Hybrid Vehicles**

The use of HOV permits will be extended to qualified hybrid vehicles, with the use restricted to the portion of U.S. 50 designated as an HOV lane, between I-95/I-495 and U.S. 301. Qualified hybrid vehicles must display an HOV hybrid permit affixed on the rear of the vehicle in a visible position within 12 inches of the license plate. Please remind customers not to place the sticker on their windows.

“Qualified Hybrid Vehicle” is defined in article TR §23-202(b)(3) which states it must draw propulsion energy from both of the following sources:

- Gasoline or diesel fuel; and
- A rechargeable energy storage system

The HOV hybrid permits will be available beginning October 1, 2016. These permits will be effective through September 30, 2018. **Only 2,000 HOV hybrid permits will be issued.** Applications for HOV hybrid permits should be forwarded to MVA’s Glen Burnie headquarters, Room 104, for processing.

This legislation also extends the eligibility of plug-in electric vehicles to use all Maryland HOV lanes until September 30, 2018. These vehicles show PE in the fuel type field. A letter detailing this eligibility has been mailed to all Maryland plug-in electric vehicle owners.

[Link to this bill on the Maryland General Assembly website](#)