

*public inspection during office hours; but the commissioner in his discretion may declare any record or entry therein which is more than 5 years old, or which relates to any happening which occurred more than 5 years previously, to be confidential and not open to public inspection. Any existing record or entry therein, no matter what its age, shall be open to inspection by duly authorized representatives of any state, federal, or local governmental agency.*

*(c) The commissioner at any time may order that any record held by the department be maintained on microfilm or in other microform, and the original destroyed, except records which by this article or other applicable law are required to be maintained in their original or other form.*

*(d) With the exception of records which by this article or other applicable law are required to be maintained for a longer period, the commissioner may destroy any records of the department which have been maintained on file for 3 years or longer, which he deems obsolete and of no further service in carrying out the powers and duties of the department.*

§ 2-313. *Authority to grant, approve, or reject application.*

*The department shall examine and determine the genuineness, regularity, and legality of every application for registration of a vehicle and for a certificate of title therefor and for a driver's license, and of any other application made to the department, and may in all cases make investigation as deemed necessary or require additional information, and shall reject any such application if not satisfied of the genuineness, regularity, or legality thereof or the truth of any statement contained therein, or for any other reason when authorized by law.*

§ 2-314. *Seizure of documents and plates.*

*The department may take possession of any certificate of title, registration card, permit, license, or registration plate issued by it upon expiration, revocation, cancellation, or suspension thereof, or which is fictitious, or which has been unlawfully or erroneously issued.*

§ 2-315. *Distribution of synopsis of laws.*

*The department may publish a synopsis or summary of the laws of this state regulating the operation of vehicles and may deliver a copy thereof without charge with each original vehicle registration and with each original driver's license.*

§ 2-316. *Department may summon witnesses and take testimony.*

*(a) The commissioner and officers of the department designated by him may summon witnesses on behalf of any party in interest to give testimony under oath or to give written deposition upon any matter under the jurisdiction of the department. A summons may require the production of relevant books, papers, or records.*

*(b) Every summons shall be served at least 5 days before the return date, either by personal service made by any person over 18 years of age or by registered mail, but return acknowledgment is required to prove the latter service.*

*(c) Any court of limited original jurisdiction in any county or in Baltimore City in which the person to whom the summons is*