

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That new Section 12-404.3 be and it is hereby added to Article 66 1/2 - Vehicle Laws, of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume and 1975 Supplement) to read as follows:

Article 66 1/2 - Vehicle Laws

12-404.3.

(A) EVERY TRUCK AND TRUCK TRACTOR, AND EVERY BUS, AS DEFINED IN THIS ARTICLE OPERATED ON THE HIGHWAYS OF THIS STATE, EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (B) OF THIS SECTION, SHALL BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE NAME, TRADE NAME, OR COMPANY LOGO, AND THE CITY AND STATE OF THE OWNER OR OPERATOR. HOWEVER, IN LIEU OF THE CITY AND STATE, ONE OF THE FOLLOWING MAY BE USED:

- (1) THE COMPANY UNIT NUMBER;
- (2) THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION NUMBER; OR
- (3) THE NUMBER ISSUED BY A STATE AGENCY.

THE DISPLAY OF IDENTIFICATION PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION SHALL BE IN LETTERS IN SHARP COLOR CONTRAST TO THE BACKGROUND AND BE OF SUCH SIZE, SHAPE AND COLOR AS TO BE READILY LEGIBLE, DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, FROM A DISTANCE OF 50 FEET WHILE THE VEHICLE IS NOT IN MOTION. THE DISPLAY OF IDENTIFICATION MAY BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE USE OF A REMOVABLE DEVICE SO PREPARED AS TO OTHERWISE MEET THE IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND LEGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL PROHIBIT THE DISPLAY OF ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS OF THIS STATE OR ANY OTHER STATE, OR AGENCY OR DEPARTMENT OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

(B) EXCEPTIONS - THIS SECTION SHALL NOT APPLY TO (I) VEHICLES OWNED OR OPERATED BY A [[GAS COMPANY OR ELECTRIC COMPANY AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 78 OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND OR TO CONTRACTORS OR AGENTS OF THESE COMPANIES WHILE ENGAGED IN WORK ON PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITIES]] GAS, ELECTRIC, TELEGRAPH, TELEPHONE OR WATER COMPANY, AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 78; (II) VEHICLES REGISTERED AS A FARM TRUCK UNDER SECTION 3-806(E) OR A FARM TRACTOR REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 3-808(C); (III) SCHOOL BUSES REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 3-810; (IV) TRUCKS REGISTERED AT THREE-QUARTER TON CAPACITY OR LESS; (V) AUTHORIZED EMERGENCY VEHICLES AS DEFINED IN SECTION 1-103 OF THIS ARTICLE.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 1977.