

Dear Delegate XX,

I respectfully request that you support the House Bill providing for display of a single license plate on registered vehicles (H.B. 1832). There are several reasons for supporting this legislation.

First, eliminating the need for a front license plate will reduce the state costs associated with production, storage, and shipping by \$2.3 million every year, according to the Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement. That money can be used to help balance the state budget or be earmarked for road maintenance.

Second, a front license plate is impractical on many vehicles. Some cars with aerodynamic front bumpers are not designed with front plates in mind. Installing the mounting brackets that are necessary to hold the plate requires drilling into the polyurethane bumper, resulting in devaluation of some vehicles.

Third, unnecessary damage can be sustained in minor bumper-to-bumper collisions due to the presence of the front plate and associated bracket and fasteners, not to mention damage to the plate itself.

If desired, you can add a paragraph to craft a personal statement or how this applies to you. This is what I wrote:

Finally, I would opine that police officers have much more important things to do than cite motorists who aren't displaying a front license plate. It is also worth noting that time will also be saved at local military installations, where gate security personnel check the ensure non-Virginia registration when they don't see a front plate.

Some law enforcement officials are opposed to abolishing the front license plate requirement, as they believe that losing the extra plate will make it more difficult for them to do their jobs. However, in the 19 states that have abolished the front license plate requirement, there is no evidence of a decline in public safety as a result of the plate removal. Additionally, with the exception of Maryland, Virginia is completely surrounded by states that only require one plate, and every state to our south all the way to the Texas border is a single-plate state.

We, the voters and general public of Virginia, are appreciative of the law enforcement officers and law making officials of our great Commonwealth and will continue to support them in their endeavor to continue making Virginia a safe place to live. We hope you will vote to give one plate a try in these tough economic times.

I urge you to vote to remove the two plate requirement.

Sincerely,