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August 13, 2026

Sent via Electronic Mail

Ms. Christine Nizer
Administrator
Maryland Department of Transportation
Motor Vehicle Administration

Re: Vehicle Registration Weight Classifications, Overcharges, and Refund Procedures

Dear Ms. Nizer:

I am writing regarding recent reports that Maryland motorists have been overcharged for vehicle registration because incorrect vehicle weights were used to determine their registration classifications.

Several Maryland motorists have found that their vehicle registrations contained inaccurate weight information when compared to their title. Some of these individuals subsequently received refunds from the MVA. I appreciate the effort that has been made to address this issue as it has been brought to the attention of the MVA.

So far I've learned that a motorist received an \$82 refund after questioning why her vehicle had been moved into a higher weight class following the MVA's 2024 statewide update. In another case, a Hyundai Elantra was classified as weighing more than 3,700 pounds, despite manufacturer records showing a shipping weight of 2,976 pounds, a difference of approximately 700 pounds. That motorist received a \$71 refund after the discrepancy was investigated. These cases raise concerns that extend well beyond the individual motorists who happened to notice the discrepancies.

Maryland law bases passenger vehicle registration fees on the manufacturer's shipping weight. After July 1, 2025, the annual statutory fee ranges from \$80.50 for vehicles weighing 3,500 pounds or less to \$151.50 for vehicles weighing more than 3,700 pounds. An incorrect weight is therefore not an insignificant clerical error, it can directly cause a Maryland taxpayer to be charged more money than the law requires.

According to the report from WMAR, the agency conducted a statewide review of registered vehicles using VINtelligence in 2024 as Maryland transitioned to three passenger-vehicle weight classifications. The MVA has also stated that it does not currently have information indicating that inaccurate vehicle weights are a widespread problem, but residents can verify their vehicle's weight class independently to address concerns. However, motorists should not have to independently investigate manufacturer specifications, locate old registrations, contact dealerships, or challenge the State before an inaccurate government record is corrected.

If the State relied upon a third-party database to determine how much Marylanders owe the government, then the State also has a responsibility to independently ensure that the information is accurate.

I therefore respectfully request that the MVA provide answers to the following questions:

- How many Maryland vehicle records were modified as a result of the 2024 VINtelligence review?
- How many motorists have subsequently challenged data established or modified through VINtelligence and how many were determined to be incorrect?
- What quality-control or validation process did the MVA perform before using VINtelligence data to modify existing Maryland vehicle records and calculate registration fees?
- Does the MVA know the original source of the manufacturer's shipping-weight data supplied through VINtelligence for every vehicle make and model? If not, why was that data considered sufficiently reliable to establish a fee owed to the State?
- Has the MVA conducted, or will the MVA conduct, a systematic audit of vehicles whose weight classifications changed during the 2024 update rather than relying upon individual motorists to discover possible errors?
- If additional errors are identified through an audit, will the MVA automatically correct those records and refund affected Marylanders without requiring each vehicle owner to separately file a complaint?
- How far back will the MVA reimburse a motorist who has been overcharged because of an incorrect State vehicle record?
- What notification process exists to alert a motorist when the MVA changes the recorded weight of a vehicle in a manner that increases the registration fee?
- What contractual provisions, warranties, performance requirements, or remedies exist between the State and Mobility Global regarding inaccurate data supplied through VINtelligence and will Maryland pursue the funds required to correct this issue?
- What is the procedure for reviewing the cases and issuing a refund?

It's essential to determine the scope of the problem, correct the records, identify every affected customer, and return any money that should never have been collected. Marylanders are already facing higher costs for transportation, insurance, utilities, housing, taxes, and fees. Government should not collect one dollar more from a resident than the law requires simply because inaccurate information exists in a State database, so I implore that this issue is managed in a timely manner and at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.

I respectfully request a written response addressing the questions above, including whether the MVA intends to conduct a comprehensive review of vehicle weight classifications changed through the 2024 VINtelligence process.

Marylanders deserve confidence that when the State sends them a bill, the amount is accurate and I appreciate your effort in this important matter.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J.B. Jennings". The signature is stylized, with a large, sweeping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Senator J.B. Jennings