



**Maryland Motor
Vehicle Administration**
6601 Ritchie Highway, N.E.
Glen Burnie, Maryland 21062

410-768-7000
1-800-950-1MVA
CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER

1-800-492-4575
TTY

www.MVA.Maryland.gov
WEB SITE

August 11, 2015

NOTICE TO ALL MARYLAND BASED BUS COMPANIES

The International Registration Plan (IRP) has been amended to remove the exemption for buses used in the transportation of chartered parties. Currently, registration in the IRP for chartered buses has been optional. **Effective January 1, 2016**, non-government owned buses transporting chartered parties to any destination outside their state of registration will be required to be registered under the International Registration Plan (IRP) and display the corresponding "Apportioned" plates. If a bus is plated with a restricted plate (i.e. Limousine, Van Pool, School Charter or School Bus) and is being operated within the provisions of the restriction, IRP registration is not required. However, if the bus is being used in charter operations anytime during the registration period, the bus would be subject to IRP or trip permit requirements.

A "Chartered Party" is defined by the IRP as "a group of persons who, pursuant to a common purpose and under a single contract, have acquired the exclusive use of a passenger-carrying Motor Vehicle to travel together as a group to a specified destination or for a particular itinerary, either agreed upon in advance or modified by the group after leaving the place of origin. This term includes services rendered to a number of passengers that a passenger carrier or its agent has assembled into a travel group through sale of a ticket to each individual passenger covering a round trip from one or more points of origin to a single advertised destination."

The International Registration Plan (IRP) is a cooperative registration agreement among jurisdictions which includes Canadian Provinces. The IRP allows a carrier to register once for all the jurisdictions, rather than dealing with each one separately. It provides for payment of registration fees based on the distance operated in each jurisdiction. Registration fees are paid to the base (home) jurisdiction and distributed to various jurisdictions in which the vehicles are operated; only one license plate (or set of plates) and one cab card are issued to each vehicle.

When you register using the IRP for the first time, a small fee is paid to each jurisdiction in the Plan that allows you to operate in all of these jurisdictions throughout the year. On your subsequent renewals, your registration fees will be calculated and paid to the jurisdictions for which you actually traveled in the prior year. You will continue to receive registration privileges in all the IRP jurisdictions throughout the year. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) is recommending that if you are planning to register any buses under the IRP in order to operate interstate, you consider switching any current commercial registration to an IRP "apportioned" when your 2015 commercial renewal date comes due. When you switch over to IRP prior to the expiration date of your current registration, we will apply any remaining fee credit on your existing registration(s) to your new IRP account.

The State of Maryland recommends contacting the individual jurisdiction in which travel is intended for further information regarding State laws and/or fines that may exceed \$1,000 and/or possible incarceration for improper registration. Additional information may also be obtained by visiting the IRP website at www.irponline.org or by contacting the Motor Carrier Services Section by e-mail at IRP@mdot.state.md.us. We look forward to working with you.

Larry Hogan - Governor
Pete K. Rahn - Secretary

Boyd K. Rutherford - Lt. Governor
Milt Chaffee - Administrator