

HOUSE BILL 162

R2

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By: **Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee (By Request –
Departmental – Transportation)**

Introduced and read first time: January 15, 2020

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Transportation – Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact – Inclusion of**
3 **Additional Bridges**

4 FOR the purpose of making certain bridges subject to the provisions of the Potomac River
5 Bridges Towing Compact; making this Act subject to a certain contingency; and
6 generally relating to the Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – Transportation

9 Section 25–301

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – Transportation**

15 25–301.

16 Article I

17 Parties and Title

18 This agreement shall be known as the Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact and
19 the parties to this agreement are the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland,
20 and the District of Columbia.

21 Article II

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



Findings and Purpose

The Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, Rochambeau Memorial Bridge, George Mason Memorial Bridge, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, Francis Scott Key Bridge, Chain Bridge, **GOVERNOR HARRY W. NICE/SENATOR THOMAS “MAC” MIDDLETON BRIDGE, SANDY HOOK BRIDGE, BRUNSWICK BRIDGE, POINT OF ROCKS BRIDGE,** and American Legion Bridge all pass through the territorial jurisdiction of two or more of the three parties. Experience has shown that traffic back ups often prevent state troopers, state police officers, or police officers of the appropriate jurisdiction from arriving at the scene of a disabled or abandoned vehicle to take corrective action. The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate the prompt and orderly removal of disabled and abandoned vehicles from the bridges by giving all three parties jurisdiction to exercise appropriate authority anywhere on the bridges.

Article III

Authority to Direct Traffic and Authorize Removal of Vehicle

The parties hereby give one another all necessary power and authority to have their respective state troopers, state police officers, or local law enforcement officers direct traffic and authorize the removal of disabled or abandoned vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or the parts or contents thereof, from any part of the Potomac River bridges, to the same extent and in the same manner that such state troopers, state police officers, and law enforcement officers may exercise such authority in their own jurisdictions. However, no party, acting through its state troopers, state police officers, or local law enforcement officers, shall have the authority to direct or authorize the towing or removal of any vehicle or other thing to a destination outside its own jurisdiction, unless the consent of a state trooper, state police officer, or law enforcement officer of the destination jurisdiction has been first obtained.

Article IV

Disposition of Towed Vehicles

All vehicles and their contents towed or removed from the Potomac River bridges pursuant to this Compact shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the place to which such vehicle and its contents are taken, and the handling and disposition of such vehicle and its contents shall be governed by the laws and procedures of that jurisdiction.

Article V

No Agency Relationship

Each of the parties shall act solely on its own authority within the jurisdiction granted. This Compact shall not be construed as creating any agency relationship between the parties.

Article VI

1 Effective Date

2 The provisions of this Compact shall take effect thirty days after the legislative
3 bodies of parties having jurisdiction over one or several of the bridges identified in Article
4 II have enacted compacts substantially identical to this Compact.

5 Article VII

6 Termination

7 The Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the State of Maryland, or the
8 Mayor of the District of Columbia may withdraw from this Compact at any time upon thirty
9 days written notice to the other parties.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

11 (a) This Act may not take effect until a similar Act is enacted by the District of
12 Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

13 (b) The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia are requested to
14 concur in this Act of the General Assembly of Maryland by the enactment of a similar Act.

15 (c) The Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate officials
16 of the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia of the enactment of this Act.

17 (d) On the concurrence in this Act by the District of Columbia and the
18 Commonwealth of Virginia, the Governor of the State of Maryland shall issue a
19 proclamation declaring this Act valid and effective and shall forward a copy of the
20 proclamation to the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services.

21 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to Section 2 of this
22 Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2020.