



Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Ted Dent, President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland
Vince Flook, 1st Vice President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

DATE: March 27, 2024

RE: **SB 107 Commercial Law- Statutory Liens – Motor Vehicles Towed or Removed From Parking Lots**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) SUPPORT SB 107. This bill establishes a possessory lien on a motor vehicle when lawfully towed from a private parking lot to ensure the vehicle owner pays the related towing charges for the release of the vehicle.

The intent of SB 107 is to codify current practice with respect to towing a vehicle from a private parking lot. These types of tows are pursuant to a contract between a lot owner and a towing company, and in some cases may involve a disgruntled vehicle owner who finds that his or her improperly parked vehicle has been towed without knowledge upon returning to the parking lot.

State law, and many local ordinances, have established strict requirements for the towing of vehicles. These requirements include parking lot signage to inform vehicle owners of the possibility of being towed if parked improperly, and regulation of towing and storage charges. Being unhappy with your improperly parked car being towed does not negate the payment of these charges to the towing company for the services rendered on behalf of the parking lot owner.

SB 107 provides protections to the towing company should a vehicle owner refuse to pay for the charges associated with the tow. For these reasons, TRPM SUPPORTS SB 107 and urges a FAVORABLE Committee report.