



Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee

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

DATE: January 31, 2024

RE: **SB 149 Vehicle Towing or Removal – Insurer of Record - Electronic Notification**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) SUPPORT SB 149. This bill would allow a towing company to notify the insurer of record about the towing or removal of a vehicle from a parking lot electronically if the electronic notification is agreed to by the insurer.

The Committee may remember similar bills from the past two sessions to allow a tower or a police department to notify a secured party/lien holder electronically when a vehicle is towed from a parking lot if agreed to by the parties. This has significantly streamlined the process for those entities using it and allows matters to be resolved more quickly when a vehicle is not claimed.

SB 149 is establishing this same process for the notification of an insurer of record when a vehicle is towed from a parking lot. Currently, a towing company is required to notify the insurer of record by certified mail, return receipt requested, and first-class mail within 7 days. This process is followed to provide proper notification to all parties to reclaim the vehicle. Should the owner/secured party/insurance company not claim the vehicle, the owner/secured party/insurance company is then agreeing to relinquish any rights to the vehicle which would allow the towing company to seek a CS-78 from a law enforcement agency to transfer the vehicle to a licensed automotive & dismantler recycler. SB 149 streamlines this notification process for the insurer of record and aligns the electronic notification process with that of the secured party and lien holder.

Most transactions these days can be managed electronically, from the purchasing of a home, securing a loan, and submitting applications. Providing for electronic notification of insurers of record, as well as the secured parties in previous legislation, saves money on behalf of the towing company and will resolve matters concerning abandoned vehicles more quickly should a vehicle not be claimed.

For these reasons, TRPM SUPPORTS SB 149 and urges a FAVORABLE Committee report.