



## Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

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### MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Vince Flook, President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland  
Will Cain, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

DATE: March 4, 2026

RE: **SB 698 - Vehicle Laws - Dangerous Accumulations of Snow and Ice - Removal From Exposed Vehicle Surfaces**

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) **SUPPORT** SB 698, which prohibits a person from operating or towing a vehicle without removing accumulated snow and ice from exposed vehicle surfaces. It also provides for enhanced penalties if a violation causes a property damage, serious bodily injury, or death.

Towing and recovery operators are among the first to arrive on the scene of crashes caused by snow and ice dislodging from vehicles. We see firsthand the devastating results of accumulated snow and ice flying from a vehicle's roof, hood, trailer, or cab and striking another motorist. The results include shattered windshields, multivehicle collisions, serious bodily injury, and even, in the worst instances, fatalities.

SB 698 is a common-sense safety bill. A driver already has the responsibility to ensure their vehicles and loads are secure. Just as towing and recovery professionals must properly secure every vehicle to a tow apparatus before transporting it, every driver should ensure that snow or ice does not detach and endanger others.

For these reasons, the Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) **SUPPORT** SB 698 and urge a favorable committee report.