
By: Delegates Wood, Brinkley, Conroy, Minnick, and Opara

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Liens, Regulation of Towing Practices,**
3 **and the Disposition of Unclaimed Vehicles**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing a Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Liens, Regulation
5 of Towing Practices, and the Disposition of Unclaimed Vehicles; specifying the
6 membership of the Task Force; requiring the Governor to designate a chairman;
7 requiring the Task Force to undertake a specified study; requiring the Motor
8 Vehicle Administrator to assign staff and provide certain support to the Task Force;
9 requiring a certain report; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally
10 relating to the establishment of a Task Force to study the regulation of towing
11 practices, the disposition of unclaimed vehicles, and the imposition of liens on
12 motor vehicles.

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
14 MARYLAND, That:

15 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Liens, Regulation of Towing
16 Practices, and the Disposition of Unclaimed Vehicles.

17 (b) The Task Force consists of the following 17 members:

18 (1) One member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of
19 the Senate;

20 (2) One member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker of
21 the House;

22 (3) The Motor Vehicle Administrator, or the Administrator's designee;

23 (4) The Secretary of the Department of State Police, or the Secretary's
24 designee; and

25 (5) Thirteen members appointed by the Governor as follows:

26 (i) A representative of the Maryland Association of Counties;

27 (ii) A representative of the Maryland Municipal League;

28 (iii) A representative of the Towing Recovery Professionals of
29 Maryland;

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1 (iv) A representative of the service station and automotive repair
2 industry;

3 (v) A representative of financial institutions that provide motor
4 vehicle financing;

5 (vi) A representative of the motor vehicle dealer industry;

6 (vii) A representative of the motor vehicle leasing industry;

7 (viii) A representative of the automotive dismantler and recycler or the
8 scrap processor industries;

9 (ix) A representative of the trucking industry;

10 (x) A representative of the Montgomery County Police Department
11 involved with the County's disposition of abandoned vehicles;

12 (xi) A representative of the Baltimore City Department of Public
13 Works, Bureau of Transportation, Parking Division involved with the City's disposition of
14 abandoned vehicles; and

15 (xii) Two members of the general public.

16 (c) (1) The Governor shall designate a chairman of the Task Force.

17 (2) The Motor Vehicle Administrator shall assign staff and provide
18 administrative support to the Task Force.

19 (d) The Task Force shall study:

20 (1) The regulation of storage, towing practices, and disposal of vehicles
21 throughout the State;

22 (2) The disposition of abandoned vehicles;

23 (3) The rights and obligations of property owners who have vehicles towed
24 from their property;

25 (4) The rights of individuals whose vehicles are towed without their consent;

26 (5) The imposition of liens on motor vehicles, including the scope of a lien
27 created and storage fees regulated under Title 16, Subtitle 2 of the Commercial Law
28 Article; and

29 (6) Other matters relating to the towing and disposition of motor vehicles
30 that the Task Force deems appropriate.

31 (e) In undertaking its study, the Task Force shall solicit input from the public,
32 local law enforcement agencies, and those industries that might be affected as a result of
33 the Task Force's study.

34 (f) On or before December 1, 1997, the Task Force shall issue a report of its
35 study and its recommendations to the Governor and to the Senate Judicial Proceedings
36 Committee and House of Delegates Commerce and Government Matters Committee.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 June 1, 1997. It shall remain effective for a period of 7 months and, at the end of
3 December 31, 1997, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act
4 shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.