

Unofficial Copy
R7

1997 Regular Session
7lr1130

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

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted with floor amendments

Read second time: February 5, 1997

CHAPTER ____

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 ~~47~~ 20 21 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

2

1 (5) ~~Thirteen~~ Sixteen Seventeen members appointed by the Governor as
 2 follows:

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

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

5 (iii) A representative of the Towing Recovery Professionals of
 6 Maryland;

7 (iv) A representative of the ~~service station and~~ automotive mechanical
 8 repair industry;

9 (v) A representative of financial institutions that provide motor
 10 vehicle financing;

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

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

13 (viii) A representative of the ~~automotive dismantler and recycler or the~~
 14 ~~scrap processor industries~~ Maryland Auto and Truck Recyclers Association;

15 (ix) A representative of the ~~trucking industry~~ Maryland Motor Truck
 16 Association;

17 (x) A representative of the Washington Metropolitan Auto Body
 18 Association;

19 (xi) A representative of the insurance industry providing motor vehicle
 20 insurance;

21 ~~(xii)~~ (xii) A representative of the motor vehicle salvage pool industry;

22 ~~(xiii)~~ (xiii) A representative of the automotive collision repair industry;

23 ~~(xiv)~~ ~~(xiii)~~ (xiv) A representative of the Montgomery County Police
 24 Department involved with the County's disposition of abandoned vehicles;

25 ~~(xv)~~ ~~(xiv)~~ (xv) A representative of the Baltimore City Department of
 26 Public Works, Bureau of Transportation, Parking Division involved with the City's
 27 disposition of abandoned vehicles; and

28 ~~(xvi)~~ ~~(xv)~~ (xvi) Two members of the general public.

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

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

32 (d) The Task Force shall study:

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

35 (2) The disposition of abandoned vehicles;

3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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