
By: Delegate D. Murphy

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 1997

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Use of "Spotters" by Towing Companies - Penalty**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying the penalty for a violation of a provision of the Maryland

4 Vehicle Law prohibiting the use of "spotters" by towing companies by establishing a

5 mandatory fine for the use of "spotters"; and generally relating to towing companies

6 and the use of "spotters".

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

8 Article - Transportation

9 Section 21-10A-04(3), (6), and (7) and 27-101(a) and (b)

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Transportation

14 Section 27-101(r)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1996 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF

18 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article - Transportation**

20 21-10A-04.

21 A person who undertakes the towing or removal of a vehicle from a parking lot:

22 (3) Before towing or removing the vehicle, shall have authorization of the

23 parking lot owner which shall include:

24 (i) The name of the person authorizing the tow or removal; and

25 (ii) A statement that the vehicle is being towed or removed at the

26 request of the parking lot owner;

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1 (6) May not employ individuals, commonly referred to as "spotters", whose
2 primary task is to report the presence of unauthorized parked vehicles for the purposes of
3 towing or removal, and impounding; and

4 (7) May not pay any remuneration to the owner of the parking lot.

5 27-101.

6 (a) It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of the
7 Maryland Vehicle Law unless the violation is declared to be a felony by the Maryland
8 Vehicle Law or by any other law of this State.

9 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, any person convicted of a
10 misdemeanor for the violation of any of the provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law is
11 subject to a fine of not more than \$500.

12 (R) ANY PERSON WHO IS CONVICTED OF A VIOLATION OF § 21-10A-04(6) OF
13 THIS ARTICLE SHALL BE FINED \$500.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
15 October 1, 1997.