
By: **Delegate Stern**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2006

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Motor Vehicles - Unclaimed Vehicles - Preservation and Storage Costs**

3 FOR the purpose of increasing the maximum preservation and storage costs
4 chargeable to the last registered owner of an unclaimed vehicle to a certain
5 amount; and generally relating to preservation and storage costs for unclaimed
6 vehicles.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
8 Article - Transportation
9 Section 25-206.1
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Transportation**

15 25-206.1.

16 (a) This section applies to any vehicle sold by a police department of Baltimore
17 City, Prince George's County, Montgomery County, or a municipal corporation in
18 Prince George's County or Montgomery County under this subtitle as an abandoned
19 vehicle, and to any vehicle sold pursuant to an ordinance of the Mayor and City
20 Council of Baltimore, an ordinance or local law enacted by Prince George's County or
21 Montgomery County, or an ordinance enacted by a municipal corporation in Prince
22 George's County or Montgomery County governing vehicles that are:

- 23 (1) Abandoned and unclaimed;
- 24 (2) Reported stolen, recovered, and subsequently unclaimed; or
- 25 (3) Involved in an accident, removed by police, and subsequently
26 unclaimed.

1 (b) If the money collected from the sale of a vehicle subject to this section is
2 not enough to reimburse a police department or its agent for the costs of towing,
3 preserving, and storing the vehicle and for the expenses of sale, including all
4 publication and notice costs, the last registered owner shall be liable to the police
5 department or its agent for the deficiency. For purposes of this subsection, the costs
6 chargeable to an owner for the preservation and storage of a vehicle may not exceed
7 [~~\$300~~] \$500.

8 (c) If a vehicle subject to this section is transferred by the registered owner
9 after it has been towed or impounded and before its sale at auction, and the
10 transferee is given a copy of the notice required under § 25-204 of this subtitle, by the
11 transferor or by the towing or impounding agency, then the transferee shall be liable
12 for the costs provided by this section.

13 (d) The liability provided by this section does not apply to the registered owner
14 of a vehicle who has made a bona fide sale or gift of the vehicle to another person
15 prior to its being towed or impounded. The registered owner has the burden of
16 showing that a bona fide sale or gift of the vehicle has occurred.

17 (e) The liability provided by this section does not apply in any case in which
18 notice as required by § 25-204(c) of this subtitle has not been provided.

19 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
20 October 1, 2006.