

HOUSE BILL 684

R7

(8lr1010)

ENROLLED BILL

—Environmental Matters/Finance—

Introduced by **Delegates Stukes, Frush, Braveboy, Burns, Conaway, Frick, Glenn, Gutierrez, Howard, Kaiser, Levi, McHale, Niemann, Oaks, Proctor, Rice, Robinson, Taylor, F. Turner, Valderrama, ~~and Walker~~ Walker, Carr, McIntosh, Shewell, and Stein**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing Practices**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing
4 Practices in the State; providing for the membership of the Task Force;
5 requiring the Governor to designate the chair of the Task Force; requiring the
6 Task Force to study certain issues relevant to motor vehicle towing practices in
7 the State; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations
8 to the Governor and the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing
9 for reimbursement for expenses for a member of the Task Force; providing for
10 the staff of the Task Force; providing for the termination of this Act; and
11 generally relating to the establishment of the Task Force to Study Motor
12 Vehicle Towing Practices in the State.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber / conference committee amendments.



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

3 (a) There is a Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing Practices in the
4 State.

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

6 (1) ~~two members~~ one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by
7 the President of the Senate;

8 (2) ~~two members~~ one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by
9 the Speaker of the House;

10 (3) one representative from the Motor Vehicle Administration,
11 appointed by the Motor Vehicle Administrator;

12 (4) two representatives from the motor vehicle insurance industry,
13 appointed by the Governor;

14 (5) two representatives from two different county police departments
15 who are involved with the county's towing policies and the disposition of abandoned
16 motor vehicles, appointed by the Governor;

17 (6) two representatives of the Towing and Recovery Professionals of
18 Maryland, appointed by the president of that organization;

19 (7) two representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties,
20 appointed by the president of the Association;

21 (8) one representative of the Maryland Retailers Association,
22 appointed by the president of the Association;

23 (9) one representative of the Maryland Bankers Association, appointed
24 by the president of the Association;

25 (10) one representative of the Maryland Automobile Dealers
26 Association, appointed by the president of the Association;

27 (11) one representative of the Apartment and Office Building
28 Association, appointed by the president of the Association; ~~and~~

29 ~~(12) two members from the general public, appointed by the Governor~~

30 (12) one representative of the Maryland Auto and Truck Recyclers
31 Association, appointed by the Executive Director of the Association;

1 (13) one representative of a Maryland branch of the American
2 Automobile Association (AAA) appointed by the branch president of the Association;

3 (14) two representatives of the Maryland Municipal League, appointed
4 by the Executive Director of the League; and

5 (15) the following members appointed by the Governor:

6 (i) two members representing the interests of commercial and
7 residential property owners; and

8 (ii) two members from the general public.

9 (c) The Governor shall designate the chair of the Task Force.

10 (d) The Motor Vehicle Administration shall provide staff for the Task Force.

11 (e) A member of the Task Force:

12 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

13 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard
14 State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

15 (f) The Task Force shall study:

16 (1) the State and local laws governing towing practices, including the
17 storage and disposal of towed vehicles, and any recommended changes to these laws;

18 (2) the costs, benefits, and feasibility of a State program of licensure or
19 registration for the towing industry;

20 (3) issues related to notice given by a private property owner to the
21 owner of a motor vehicle before towing the vehicle;

22 (4) issues related to notice given by a police department to the motor
23 vehicle owner, a secured party, or an insurer of an abandoned motor vehicle in police
24 custody;

25 (5) issues related to notice given by a private tower to the motor
26 vehicle owner, a secured party, an insurer, or the local police department of a towed
27 vehicle in the possession of a private tower;

28 (6) issues related to State preemption of local authority governing the
29 towing or removal of motor vehicles; and

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1 (7) any other issues that the Task Force considers relevant to motor
2 vehicle towing practices in the State.

3 (g) On or before December 31, 2008, the Task Force shall report its findings
4 and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
5 Government Article, the General Assembly.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 June 1, 2008. It shall remain effective for a period of ~~7 months~~ 1 year and, at the end
8 of ~~December 31, 2008~~ May 31, 2009, with no further action required by the General
9 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.