

HOUSE BILL 684

R7

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By: **Delegates Stukes, Braveboy, Burns, Conaway, Frick, Glenn, Gutierrez, Howard, Kaiser, Levi, McHale, Niemann, Oaks, Proctor, Rice, Robinson, Taylor, F. Turner, Valderrama, and Walker**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

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.

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 Towing Practices in the
16 State.

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

18 (1) two members of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
19 President of the Senate;

20 (2) two members of the House of Delegates, appointed by the Speaker
21 of the House;

22 (3) one representative from the Motor Vehicle Administration,
23 appointed by the Motor Vehicle Administrator;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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

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

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

8 (7) two representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties,
9 appointed by the president of the Association;

10 (8) one representative of the Maryland Retailers Association,
11 appointed by the president of the Association;

12 (9) one representative of the Maryland Bankers Association, appointed
13 by the president of the Association;

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

16 (11) one representative of the Apartment and Office Building
17 Association, appointed by the president of the Association; and

18 (12) two members from the general public, appointed by the Governor.

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

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

21 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

25 (f) The Task Force shall study:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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