

# HOUSE BILL 684

R7

8lr1010

---

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**

Introduced and read first time: February 1, 2008

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

---

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2008

---

## 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.

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;

---

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.



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

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

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

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

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

12                  (7)     two representatives of the Maryland Association of Counties,  
13 appointed by the president of the Association;

14                  (8)     one representative of the Maryland Retailers Association,  
15 appointed by the president of the Association;

16                  (9)     one representative of the Maryland Bankers Association, appointed  
17 by the president of the Association;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30                         (i)    two members representing the interests of commercial and  
31 residential property owners; and

32                         (ii)   two members from the general public.

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

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

3 (e) A member of the Task Force:

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

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

7 (f) The Task Force shall study:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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