

SENATE BILL 643

R7
SB 780/11 – JPR

2lr2668

By: **Senators Ramirez, Colburn, Kelley, Montgomery, and Muse**
Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012
Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Abandoned Vehicles – Notice**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the definition of abandoned vehicle to include a certain
4 stolen vehicle; altering the time and manner for a certain notice to be given to a
5 certain person by a police department; and generally relating to notice
6 regarding abandoned vehicles.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
8 Article – Transportation
9 Section 25–201(a)
10 Annotated Code of Maryland
11 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
13 Article – Transportation
14 Section 25–201(b) and 25–204(a)
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 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 25–201.

21 (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

22 (b) “Abandoned vehicle” means any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (1) That is inoperable and left unattended on public property for more
2 than 48 hours;

3 (2) That has remained illegally on public property for more than 48
4 hours;

5 (3) That has remained on private property for more than 48 hours
6 without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property;

7 (4) That has remained in a garage for more than 10 days after the
8 garage keeper has given the owner of the vehicle notice by certified mail, return
9 receipt requested, bearing a postmark from the United States Postal Service, to
10 remove the vehicle;

11 (5) That has remained in a garage for more than 10 days after the
12 period when, by contract, the vehicle was to remain in the garage;

13 (6) That was left for more than 10 days in a garage by:

14 (i) Someone other than its registered owner; or

15 (ii) A person authorized to have possession of the vehicle under
16 a contract of use, service, storage, or repair;

17 (7) That has remained on public property for more than 48 hours and:

18 (i) Is not displaying currently valid registration plates; or

19 (ii) Is displaying registration plates of another vehicle;

20 (8) That has been left unattended on any portion of a “controlled
21 access highway” as defined in § 8–101(f) of this article for more than 24 hours;

22 (9) That has been left unattended on any portion of a primary or
23 secondary highway or controlled access highway, as defined in § 8–101 of this article,
24 and is in violation of any of the provisions of § 22–408 of this article; [or]

25 **(10) THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED STOLEN AND HAS BEEN TAKEN**
26 **INTO CUSTODY BY A POLICE DEPARTMENT; OR**

27 ~~(10)~~ **(11)** That is not reclaimed as provided under § 27–111 of this
28 article.

29 25–204.

1 (a) As soon as reasonably possible and within [7] **3** days at most after it
2 takes an abandoned vehicle into custody, a police department shall send a notice[,] **BY**
3 **REGULAR MAIL AND** by certified mail, return receipt requested, bearing a postmark
4 from the United States Postal Service, **AND SHALL PROVIDE NOTICE BY**
5 **TELEPHONE TO THE OWNER IF A PHONE NUMBER FOR THE OWNER OF THE**
6 **VEHICLE IS AVAILABLE**, to:

7 (1) The last known registered owner of the vehicle; and

8 (2) Each secured party, as shown on the records of the Administration.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2012.