

Chapter 89

**(House Bill 162)**

AN ACT concerning

**Transportation – Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact – Inclusion of Additional Bridges**

FOR the purpose of making certain bridges subject to the provisions of the Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact; making this Act subject to ~~a certain contingency~~ certain contingencies; and generally relating to the Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
Article – Transportation  
Section 25–301  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

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

**Article – Transportation**

25–301.

Article I

Parties and Title

This agreement shall be known as the Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact and the parties to this agreement are the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Article II

Findings and Purpose

The Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, Rochambeau Memorial Bridge, George Mason Memorial Bridge, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, Francis Scott Key Bridge, Chain Bridge, **GOVERNOR HARRY W. NICE/SENATOR THOMAS “MAC” MIDDLETON BRIDGE, SANDY HOOK BRIDGE, BRUNSWICK BRIDGE, POINT OF ROCKS BRIDGE,** and American Legion Bridge all pass through the territorial jurisdiction of two or more of the three parties. Experience has shown that traffic back ups often prevent state troopers, state police officers, or police officers of the appropriate jurisdiction from arriving at the scene of a disabled or abandoned vehicle to take corrective action. The purpose of this

Compact is to facilitate the prompt and orderly removal of disabled and abandoned vehicles from the bridges by giving all three parties jurisdiction to exercise appropriate authority anywhere on the bridges.

### Article III

#### Authority to Direct Traffic and Authorize Removal of Vehicle

The parties hereby give one another all necessary power and authority to have their respective state troopers, state police officers, or local law enforcement officers direct traffic and authorize the removal of disabled or abandoned vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or the parts or contents thereof, from any part of the Potomac River bridges, to the same extent and in the same manner that such state troopers, state police officers, and law enforcement officers may exercise such authority in their own jurisdictions. However, no party, acting through its state troopers, state police officers, or local law enforcement officers, shall have the authority to direct or authorize the towing or removal of any vehicle or other thing to a destination outside its own jurisdiction, unless the consent of a state trooper, state police officer, or law enforcement officer of the destination jurisdiction has been first obtained.

### Article IV

#### Disposition of Towed Vehicles

All vehicles and their contents towed or removed from the Potomac River bridges pursuant to this Compact shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the place to which such vehicle and its contents are taken, and the handling and disposition of such vehicle and its contents shall be governed by the laws and procedures of that jurisdiction.

### Article V

#### No Agency Relationship

Each of the parties shall act solely on its own authority within the jurisdiction granted. This Compact shall not be construed as creating any agency relationship between the parties.

### Article VI

#### Effective Date

The provisions of this Compact shall take effect thirty days after the legislative bodies of parties having jurisdiction over one or several of the bridges identified in Article II have enacted compacts substantially identical to this Compact.

### Article VII

## Termination

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the State of Maryland, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia may withdraw from this Compact at any time upon thirty days written notice to the other parties.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### Article – Transportation

25–301.

#### Article I

##### Parties and Title

This agreement shall be known as the Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact and the parties to this agreement are the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

#### Article II

##### Findings and Purpose

The Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge, Rochambeau Memorial Bridge, George Mason Memorial Bridge, Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, Francis Scott Key Bridge, Chain Bridge, **ARLAND D. WILLIAMS, JR. MEMORIAL BRIDGE**, and American Legion Bridge all pass through the territorial jurisdiction of two or more of the three parties. Experience has shown that traffic back ups often prevent state troopers, state police officers, or police officers of the appropriate jurisdiction from arriving at the scene of a disabled or abandoned vehicle to take corrective action. The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate the prompt and orderly removal of disabled and abandoned vehicles from the bridges by giving all three parties jurisdiction to exercise appropriate authority anywhere on the bridges.

#### Article III

##### Authority to Direct Traffic and Authorize Removal of Vehicle

The parties hereby give one another all necessary power and authority to have their respective state troopers, state police officers, or local law enforcement officers direct traffic and authorize the removal of disabled or abandoned vehicles, trailers, semitrailers, or the parts or contents thereof, from any part of the Potomac River bridges, to the same extent and in the same manner that such state troopers, state police officers, and law enforcement officers may exercise such authority in their own jurisdictions. However, no party, acting

through its state troopers, state police officers, or local law enforcement officers, shall have the authority to direct or authorize the towing or removal of any vehicle or other thing to a destination outside its own jurisdiction, unless the consent of a state trooper, state police officer, or law enforcement officer of the destination jurisdiction has been first obtained.

#### Article IV

##### Disposition of Towed Vehicles

All vehicles and their contents towed or removed from the Potomac River bridges pursuant to this Compact shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the place to which such vehicle and its contents are taken, and the handling and disposition of such vehicle and its contents shall be governed by the laws and procedures of that jurisdiction.

#### Article V

##### No Agency Relationship

Each of the parties shall act solely on its own authority within the jurisdiction granted. This Compact shall not be construed as creating any agency relationship between the parties.

#### Article VI

##### Effective Date

The provisions of this Compact shall take effect thirty days after the legislative bodies of parties having jurisdiction over one or several of the bridges identified in Article II have enacted compacts substantially identical to this Compact.

#### Article VII

##### Termination

The Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the State of Maryland, or the Mayor of the District of Columbia may withdraw from this Compact at any time upon thirty days written notice to the other parties.

SECTION ~~2~~ 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) ~~This~~ Section 1 of this Act may not take effect until a similar Act is enacted by the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

(b) The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia are requested to concur in Section 1 of this Act of the General Assembly of Maryland by the enactment of a similar Act.

(c) The Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate officials of the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia of the enactment of Section 1 of this Act.

(d) On the concurrence in Section 1 of this Act by the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Governor of the State of Maryland shall issue a proclamation declaring Section 1 of this Act valid and effective and shall forward a copy of the proclamation to the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) Section 2 of this Act may not take effect until a similar Act is enacted by the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

(b) The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia are requested to concur in Section 2 of this Act of the General Assembly of Maryland by the enactment of a similar Act.

(c) The Department of Legislative Services shall notify the appropriate officials of the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia of the enactment of Section 2 of this Act.

(d) On the concurrence in Section 2 of this Act by the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Governor of the State of Maryland shall issue a proclamation declaring Section 2 of this Act valid and effective and shall forward a copy of the proclamation to the Executive Director of the Department of Legislative Services.

SECTION ~~3~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, subject to ~~Section 2~~ Sections 3 and 4 of this Act, this Act shall take effect June 1, 2020.

**Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 8, 2020.**