

SENATE BILL 501

R5

1lr0583

By: **Senator Beidle**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2021

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Towing or Removal of Vehicles From Parking Lots – Placement of Signs –**
3 **Regional Malls**

4 FOR the purpose of altering the standards for signage for a regional mall parking lot by
5 requiring that, before being authorized to tow or remove a vehicle, the owner or
6 operator of the parking lot place certain signs at each entrance to the parking lot;
7 defining a certain term; and generally relating to signs regarding the towing and
8 removal of vehicles from regional mall parking lots.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 21–10A–02
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2020 Replacement Volume)

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

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 21–10A–02.

18 (a) **(1) IN THIS SECTION, “REGIONAL MALL” MEANS A SHOPPING MALL**
19 **WITH AT LEAST:**

20 **(I) 400,000 SQUARE FEET OF GROSS LEASABLE AREA; AND**

21 **(II) 2 ANCHOR STORES.**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 **(2) THE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF ANY ANCHOR STORE SHALL BE**
2 **EXCLUDED FROM THE CALCULATION OF GROSS LEASABLE AREA UNDER THIS**
3 **SECTION.**

4 **(B)** The owner or operator of a parking lot or the owner's or operator's agent may
5 not have a vehicle towed or otherwise removed from the parking lot unless the owner,
6 operator, or agent has placed in conspicuous locations, as described in subsection **[(b)] (C)**
7 of this section, signs that:

8 (1) Are at least 24 inches high and 30 inches wide;

9 (2) Are clearly visible to the driver of a motor vehicle entering or being
10 parked in the parking lot;

11 (3) State the location to which the vehicle will be towed or removed and the
12 name of the towing company;

13 (4) State that State law requires that the vehicle be available for
14 reclamation 24 hours per day, 7 days per week;

15 (5) State the maximum amount that the owner of the vehicle may be
16 charged for the towing or removal of the vehicle; and

17 (6) Provide the telephone number of a person who can be contacted to
18 arrange for the reclaiming of the vehicle by its owner or the owner's agent.

19 **[(b)] (C) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS**
20 **SUBSECTION, THE** signs described in subsection **[(a)] (B)** of this section shall be placed to
21 provide at least 1 sign for every 7,500 square feet of parking space in the parking lot.

22 **(2) IN THE PARKING LOT OF A REGIONAL MALL, THE SIGNS**
23 **DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE PLACED AT EVERY**
24 **ENTRANCE TO THE PARKING LOT.**

25 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
26 October 1, 2021.