

SB227 Abandon Veh.pdf

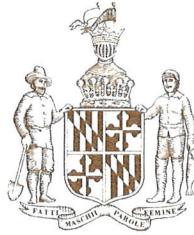
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Position: FWA

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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

February 8, 2023

Senate Bill 227
Anne Arundel County – Abandoned Vehicles

Good Afternoon Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and Members of Judicial Proceedings,

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this Anne Arundel County bill SB227, to your attention. Last year members of the Anne Arundel County Council began looking at options to deal with vehicles that are being operated illegally within the County. Currently, if an individual is found operating a vehicle illegally the vehicle is generally towed but is then immediately released to the individual. After looking into options employed in other counties it was discovered that Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County had provisions allowing the vehicle to be held for a longer period of time.

After looking into options used in other counties, the Anne Arundel County Office of Law advised that the County does not have the authority to adopt stronger impoundment laws because the State does not provide Anne Arundel the same authority as other counties.

State law authorizes Baltimore City, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County to recover the costs of impoundment and storage of a vehicle and sell the vehicle if it goes unclaimed. Those counties have used this authority to adopt local laws and establish programs to assist in the enforcement of vehicles being used illegally in their jurisdictions.

SB 227 is an attempt to provide Anne Arundel County with the authority to adopt stronger impoundment laws similar to the ones used in other counties. Unfortunately, during discussions this week with the Anne Arundel County Office of Law and the County police department it was discovered that additional authority beyond what is provided for in this bill is required. The Office of Law is working on amendments to add additional provisions to expand Anne Arundel's authority to impound vehicles being operated illegally in the County. I will provide the amendments to the Committee as soon as I receive them.

Thank you again for your consideration and I respectfully request a favorable report on an amended SB 227.

SB0227AACOAbandonedVehicle-UNFAV.pdf

Uploaded by: Nelda Fink

Position: UNF

Unfavorable – SB0227 AACO Abandoned Vehicle

Nelda Fink

MD District 32

While this law currently exists in PG County, the whole thing should be repealed because it is theft by the local government of a resident's private property and is using coercion, intimidation, and undue expense to force someone to register their private property, an act that is unconstitutional.

But let's not continue this unconstitutional act by now extending these even more restrictive measures to include AACO.

Stop tramping on our rights – freedom of ownership and to have private property. There is a God and our rights come from God. Government was created by man to protect those God given rights. Your job is to protect our rights, not violate them.

I oppose this bill and urge the members of the committee to vote unfavorable.

Nelda Fink