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Environment and Transportation  
Committee

The Maryland House of  
Delegates  
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## THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Testimony:** HB262 - Vehicle Towing or Removal - Secured Parties - Electronic Notification

**Committee:** Judicial Proceedings

**Hearing Date:** March 22, 2023

**Position:** Favorable

I am Delegate Linda Foley, and I am presenting HB 262, which would allow a police department to notify the secured parties/lien holders of an abandoned vehicle electronically if the electronic notification is agreed to by the police department, tower, and secured party.

This is a simple and straightforward bill—similar to a bill passed into law last year—which enabled towers who tow or remove a vehicle from a parking lot to electronically notify individuals rather than having it in written form. HB 262 simply extends this provision to police department tows of abandoned vehicles, which in most cases are handled by towing companies. Currently, a police department is required to notify the owner, any secured party, and the insurer of record by certified mail, return receipt requested, and first-class mail within 7 days. This process is followed to provide proper notification to all parties to reclaim the vehicle. Electronic notification would only occur if that kind of notification is agreed to by the police department, tower, and the secured party. Allowing for electronic notification streamlines the process, saves money, and serves to resolve matters more quickly with respect to abandoned vehicles.

Today most transactions can be handled electronically, from the purchasing of a home, securing a loan, and submitting applications. Authorizing electronic notification in these matters just makes sense. We are in the 21st century and it is only fair to provide electronic notification of a lien just as other forms of communication are already electronic.

This legislation has been discussed with the Maryland Bankers Association, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association, and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association. The Bankers have no concerns and the Chiefs and Sheriffs support. Representatives of the Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland are signed up in support of this bill and they can respond more specifically to questions about this bill and the current process.

I urge the Committee give HB 262 a favorable report to modernize and streamline this notification process.