



# Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Maryland Sheriffs' Association



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and  
Members of the House Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee  
Natasha Mehu, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

**DATE:** March 22, 2023

**RE:** **HB 262 Abandoned Vehicles – Secured Parties – Electronic Notification**

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT** HB 262. This bill 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.

Currently when removing an abandoned vehicle, a police department, or a towing company if authorized to do so by the 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. Should the owner/secured party/insurance company not claim the vehicle, the owner/secured party/insurance company is then agreeing to relinquish any rights to the vehicle which would allow for its disposal.

Most transactions these days can be managed electronically, from the purchasing of a home, securing a loan, and submitting applications. Providing for electronic notification of secured parties, saves money on behalf of the police department and tower, and will resolve matters concerning abandoned vehicles more quickly should a vehicle not be claimed.

For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT** HB 262 and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.