

HB262

Uploaded by: Darren Popkin

Position: FAV



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.

HB262

Uploaded by: Jeffrey Hurley

Position: FAV



Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Jeffrey O. Hurley, Sr, President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland
Ted Dent, 1st Vice President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

DATE: March 22, 2023

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

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) 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.

The Committee may remember a similar bill last year to allow a tower to notify a secured party/lien holder electronically when a vehicle is towed from a parking lot if agreed to by the parties. This has significantly streamlined the process for those entities using it and allows matters to be resolved more quickly when a vehicle is not claimed.

HB 262 is establishing this same process for a police department tow of an abandoned vehicle. Currently, 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 the towing company to seek a CS-78 from a law enforcement agency to transfer the vehicle to a licensed automotive & dismantler recycler. HB 262 streamlines this notification process just for the secured party/lien holders to resolve these matters more quickly.

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.

TRPM has discussed this legislation with the Maryland Bankers Association (MBA), Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), and Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA). MBA agrees with the language in the bill and is monitoring it. MCPA and MSA both support the legislation as it streamlines the notification process and allows them to dispose of abandoned vehicles more quickly.

For these reasons, TRPM SUPPORTS HB 262 and urges a FAVORABLE Committee report.

police electronic lien notification senate JPR tes

Uploaded by: Linda Foley

Position: FAV

Linda Foley
Legislative District 15
Montgomery County

Environment and Transportation
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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.