



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Jill P. Carter

**In Favor of SB599 Vehicle Towing or Removal –
Parking Lots – Maximum Fees**

**Before the Judicial Proceedings Committee
on March 2, 2023**

**Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and Members of the
Committee:**

- **Senate Bill 599 provides clarification to local jurisdictions regarding the fees that tow companies can charge for trespass towing. By removing language referencing “total fees” and amending to “fee”, Senate Bill 599 provides clearer guidance to local jurisdictions and tow companies on what fee rates can be authorized.**
- **Based on the current iteration of the statute, the ability to double “total fees” has led to more ambiguity and less clarity for local governments, including Baltimore City. The ambiguity has at times resulted in fees submitted to the Baltimore City Trespass Tow Board in excess of the authorized doubling of municipal rates. Ultimately, the excessive fees can**

burden the citizens and visitors of Baltimore City, adding financial hardship in times of fiscal uncertainty.

- **Please also take into consideration a recent formal opinion submitted by the Maryland Attorney General, specifically Opinion 107OAG0931, which states that “total fees” allowed to be doubled should only be the towing fee and not include storage, administrative, or other miscellaneous fees. Passing Senate Bill 599 would effectively codify this opinion and help to clarify authorized trespass towing rates.**

For these reasons, I urge a favorable report of SB599.

Sincerely,



Jill P. Carter, Esq.