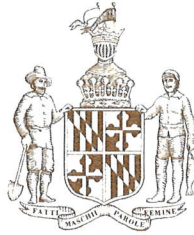


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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

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.