



Maryland Chiefs of Police Association

Maryland Sheriffs' Association



MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Darren Popkin, Executive Director, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Andrea Mansfield, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee
Samira Jackson, Representative, MCPA-MSA Joint Legislative Committee

DATE: January 22, 2025

RE: **SB 40 Vehicle Laws - Towed, Removed, or Abandoned Vehicles - Electronic Notice to Owner**

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) and the Maryland Sheriffs' Association (MSA) **SUPPORT** SB 40. This bill would allow a towing company to notify the owner of a towed vehicle electronically if the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) sends the notice. The bill provides for additional protections for the vehicle owner by requiring notification by certified mail, return receipt requested, and first-class mail if the owner does not respond within 7 days.

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 vehicle owners, secured parties, and insurers of record 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** SB 40 and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.