

January 22, 2025

The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.
Chair, Senate Judicial Proceedings
2 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Letter of Information – Senate Bill 40 – Vehicle Laws - Towed, Removed, or Abandoned Vehicles - Electronic Notice to Owner

Dear Chair Smith and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) takes no position on Senate Bill 40 but offers the following information for the Committee’s consideration.

Senate Bill 40 would allow a person who tows or removes a vehicle to request the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) send an electronic notice to the vehicle owner with the location and contact information of the towing company only if the MVA has an email on file.

Currently, the MVA offers customers the option to register an email address to receive electronic communication, such as renewal notices. Under State law, email addresses are protected personally identifiable information (PII) that the MVA is not permitted to share.

The proposed legislation would ensure the MVA is able to comply with protecting customers’ PII while providing notification service to Marylanders for towing notifications. A towing company would register with the MVA to allow exchange of a towed vehicle’s information and query whether the MVA has a customer’s email address on file. If one is found, an electronic notice would be sent to a customer similar to a flag notice and provide information on where the vehicle was towed and how to contact the towing company.

For these reasons, the Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests that the Committee consider this information when deliberating Senate Bill 40.

Respectfully submitted,

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