

# **MCPA-MSA\_SB 40-Vehicle Laws - Towed, Removed, or A**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



# 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.

# **SB 40-Vehicle Laws - Towed, Removed, or Abandoned**

Uploaded by: Andrea Mansfield

Position: FAV



## Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

P.O Box 905 \* Huntingtown, Maryland 20639

410-414-5406 \* 1-800-244-0102 \* Fax 410-414-5408

### MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Ted Dent, President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland  
Vince Flook, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

DATE: January 22, 2025

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

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland (TRPM) 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.

The Committee may remember similar bills from the past two sessions to allow a tower or a police department to notify a secured party/lien holder and insurers of record 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.

SB 40 establishes a similar process for the notification of a vehicle owner when a vehicle is towed from a parking lot. Currently, a towing company is required to notify the vehicle owner 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. SB 40 streamlines this notification process for the vehicle owner in a similar manner to that of the electronic notification process with that of the secured party and lien holder.

During the interim, TRPM worked with MVA to determine the best process for notifying vehicle owners electronically. To protect a vehicle owner's email address and provide owner protections, it was agreed that MVA would send the notice using the email address the owner provided to it and mailed notification would still be required if the vehicle owner did not respond within 7 days.

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, as well as insurers of record and secured parties in previous legislation, saves money on behalf of the towing industry and will resolve matters concerning abandoned vehicles more quickly should a vehicle not be claimed.

For these reasons, TRPM SUPPORTS SB 40 and urges a FAVORABLE Committee report.

# **SB 40 Sponsor Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: C. Anthony Muse

Position: FAV

C. ANTHONY MUSE  
Legislative District 26  
Prince George's County

Committees

Judicial Proceedings

Vice Chair, Executive Nominations

Rules



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Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3092  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3092  
Anthony.Muse@senate.state.md.us

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**Sponsor Testimony**

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

Chairman Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher and members of the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present SB 40 on behalf of the Towing and Recovery Professionals of Maryland.

SB 40 is about streamlining processes and the quick resolution of situations where a vehicle is not claimed when towed.

Similar legislation has been voted favorable by this committee over the past two years authorizing the electronic notification of secured parties/lien holders and insurers of records by towers and police departments. This bill extends this process to the vehicle owner. However, it provides additional protections to the vehicle owner by requiring MVA to make the notification using the vehicle owner's email address on file and requires mailed notification if the vehicle owner does not respond within 7 days. TRPM worked with MVA during the interim on this process.

Representatives of TRPM are signed up in support and can respond more specifically to questions about this bill and the current process.

Therefore, I respectfully request the committee give SB 40 a FAVORABLE report to modernize and streamline this notification process.

**Sb 40 Support Letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Karen Straughn

Position: FAV



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*Chief Deputy Attorney General*

**LEONARD J. HOWIE III**  
*Deputy Attorney General*

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*Chief, Equity, Policy, and Engagement*

**STATE OF MARYLAND**  
**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION**

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January 22, 2025

To: The Honorable William C. Smith, Jr.  
Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee

From: Karen S. Straughn  
Consumer Protection Division

Re: Senate Bill 40 – Vehicle Laws – Towed, Removed or Abandoned Vehicles – Electronic  
Notice to Owner(SUPPORT)

The Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General submits the following written testimony in support of Senate Bill 40 submitted by Senator C. Anthony Muse. This bill would permit a tower and the police department to notify, by electronic notice, an owner, the insurer of record, and any secured party of the action taken against the vehicle.

When a vehicle is towed, the owner, if he is aware his vehicle is missing, is often left confused, believing that his vehicle may have been stolen. The law, as currently written requires notice by certified mail within 7 days of the tow. When an individual believes his vehicle has been stolen, however, this is a lengthy period of time. This law permits electronic notification to the owner and the secured party as well as the insurer of record, which will likely result in a quicker ability for an individual to know what has occurred and be able to take appropriate action. If no response is received within 7 days, then notice must still be sent by certified mail. This law therefore adds protections, without removing any protections currently in the law in the event that electronic notice is not sufficient to notify the parties.

This bill will also help to potentially reduce storage charges imposed upon the owner. The Consumer Protection Division often receives complaints from individuals about the costs incurred in having their vehicle towed, including storage charges. By providing an option for more rapid notification, the owner can act to retrieve the vehicle sooner, resulting in less fines to consumers.



For these reasons, we ask that the Judicial Proceedings Committee return a favorable report on this bill.

cc: The Honorable C. Anthony Muse  
Members, Judicial Proceedings Committee

# **MCPA-MSA\_SB 40-Vehicle Laws - Towed, Removed, or A**

Uploaded by: Samira Jackson

Position: FAV



# 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**

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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.

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For this reason, MCPA and MSA **SUPPORT** SB 40 and urge a **FAVORABLE** Committee report.

# **SB0040 – MVA - LOI - Vehicle Laws - Towed, Removed**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO

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,

Christine E. Nizer  
Administrator  
Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration  
410-787-7830

Matthew Mickler  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865- 1090