

MARY-DULANY JAMES  
Legislative District 34  
Harford County



James Senate Office Building  
11 Bladen Street, Room 103  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
410-841-3158 · 301-858-3158  
800-492-7122 Ext. 3158  
MaryDulany.James@senate.state.md.us

Judicial Proceedings Committee  
Executive Nominations Committee

Senate Chair

Joint Committee on  
Children, Youth, and Families

THE SENATE OF MARYLAND  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Testimony of Senator Mary-Dulany James  
In Support of Senate Bill 578 - Public Safety - Department of State Police - Police-Initiated  
Towing - Alterations  
House Environment and Transportation Committee  
March 31, 2026

Mr. Chairman, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

The Maryland Department of State Police (MDSP) currently sets maximum allowable rates for police-initiated medium- and heavy-duty towing and recovery. Senate Bill 578 as introduced would have simply required MDSP to set the rates for light-duty towing and recovery as well. The Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee also amended the bill to eliminate unnecessary deadlines from statute, provide more clarity for the establishment of rates for light-duty tows, and establish additional responsibilities for the Committee that provides guidance for the rates that may be charged for police-initiated towing and recovery.

The cross-file of Senate Bill 578 is House Bill 30, which was introduced by Delegate Foley and passed out of the House unanimously after being amended by the Environment and Transportation Committee. The House amendments to HB 30 largely mirror the Senate amendments to SB 578, with the only substantive difference being that the House legislation also shortens the name of the Committee on Rate Setting and Complaint Resolution for Police-Initiated Light-Duty, Medium-Duty, and Heavy-Duty Towing and Recovery. I believe this is a good addition to the bill and applaud the committee's and subcommittee's work.

Thank you for your consideration of Senate Bill 578 and I ask that the committee issue a favorable report with amendments to conform it to its cross-file, House Bill 30.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary-Dulany James".

Senator Mary-Dulany James  
Harford County, Maryland