



State of Maryland
Department of State Police
Government Affairs Unit
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POSITION ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION

DATE: March 31, 2026

BILL NUMBER: Senate Bill 578 **POSITION:** Letter of Information

BILL TITLE: Public Safety – Department of State Police – Police-Initiated Towing-
Alterations

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS

This legislation seeks to establish a definition for light-duty towing and recovery of vehicles and requires the Department of State Police (DSP) to set towing rates for light-duty towing and recovery for state police-initiated tows in every county of the state. The Department would not be required to use the current Committee on Rate Setting and Complaint Resolution for Police-Initiated Medium and Heavy-Duty Towing and Recovery.

Under current law, the Committee is required to establish towing and recovery rate recommendations to the Superintendent of the Department only for medium and heavy-duty vehicles. Once adopted, all medium- and heavy-duty tow-and-recovery requests by the Department would be subject to the pricing schedule. While the Department staffs and advises the committee, we are not solely responsible for establishing the rates.

Senate Bill 578 creates a new requirement for the Department to establish rates for police-initiated light-duty tows, including vehicles and trailers weighing less than 10,000 lbs. As currently written, the bill requires the Department, on its own initiative, to set and enforce maximum towing rates and to ensure that light-duty towing rates are capped at a statutory percentage of medium-duty rates. As defined, these requirements present a problem for the two companies and the Department.

The DSP has been in conversations with industry representatives regarding proposed amendments. These amendments require the Committee to establish the towing and recovery rates for light-duty vehicles in consultation with the DSP, as well as set a reasonable percentage in statute of towing and recovery costs for light-duty vehicles versus medium-duty vehicles. As currently written, the bill presents several challenges for the DSP and the towing and recovery industry. The amendments to SB 578 presented to DSP for review would resolve those issues.

For these reasons, the Department of State Police respectfully requests that the Committee consider this letter of information when deliberating on Senate Bill 578.