

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 17-0028  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Dorsey, Clarke, Stokes, Scott, Cohen

Introduced and read first time: February 27, 2017

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Department of Transportation

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Vehicles Obstructing Sidewalks – Removal Authorized**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting vehicles from impeding the free flow of pedestrians on sidewalks;  
4 authorizing the removal of vehicles impeding the free flow of pedestrians on sidewalks;  
5 clarifying and conforming related provisions; and generally relating to vehicles obstructing  
6 traffic.

7 BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments

8 Article 31 - Transit and Traffic

9 Section(s) 31-6

10 Baltimore City Code

11 (Edition 2000)

12 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
13 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

14 **Baltimore City Code**

15 **Article 31. Transit and Traffic**

16 **Subtitle 31. Clear Streets and Impoundment**

17 ***Part 2. General Conditions Warranting Impoundment***

18 **§ 31-6. Vehicles obstructing traffic.**

19 (a) *Prohibited conduct.*

20 (1) It shall be unlawful for any person to use [City streets] ANY CITY STREET OR  
21 SIDEWALK to park, stop, store, or operate a vehicle or part thereof in such a manner as  
22 to obstruct or impede the free flow of traffic thereon or the movement of pedestrians.

23 (2) [Determination] A DETERMINATION by the Commissioner that [such] a vehicle is  
24 actually obstructing [traffic as aforesaid shall be considered prima facie evidence of a  
25 violation hereof] OR IMPEDING THE FREE FLOW OF TRAFFIC OR THE MOVEMENT OF

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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1 PEDESTRIANS CREATES A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS  
2 SECTION HAS OCCURRED.

3 (b) *Removal of vehicle.*

4 (1) The Commissioner is authorized to cause [such] ANY vehicle IN VIOLATION OF  
5 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION to be removed immediately so as to clear the  
6 [streets] AFFECTED STREET OR SIDEWALK.

7 (2) Such removal may be:

8 (i) to another part of the same street;

9 (ii) to a side street; or

10 (iii) effected in the manner [hereinafter] provided for impounded and abandoned  
11 motor vehicles IN THIS SUBTITLE.

12 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance  
13 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior  
14 Ordinance.

15 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
16 after the date it is enacted.