

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 09-0319  
(First Reader)**

---

Introduced by: Councilmembers Curran, Kraft, Henry, Clarke, Cole

Introduced and read first time: April 20, 2009

Assigned to: Judiciary and Legislative Investigations Committee

---

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

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Impound Towing – Fees**

3 FOR the purpose of setting maximum towing, storage, and related charges that may be imposed  
4 on the owners or operators of impounded vehicles; establishing a period within which these  
5 charges may not be increased; correcting, clarifying, and conforming related provisions; and  
6 generally relating to impound towing.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments

8 Article 31 - Transit and Traffic

9 Section(s) 31-42(d) and 31-47

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 **§ 31-42. Employment of tow trucks.**

18 (d) *Fees.*

19 (1) [The] SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS SET IN PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE  
20 towing charges shall be [set] AGREED TO in advance[, arrived at] by [agreement  
21 between] the towers, the Commissioner, and the Director[, with any]. ANY disputes  
22 as to [such] THE charges [to] SHALL be settled by the Commissioner.

23 (2) [In] IF the [event] towing is performed by City forces or vehicles and [no] THE  
24 employment of PRIVATE towers [becomes necessary] IS UNNECESSARY, the same  
25 [schedule of] TOWING charges [shall] apply.

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

**Council Bill 09-0319**

1 (3) [Such] ALL towing charges [will] SHALL be added to the cost of storage, as  
2 [hereinafter] specified in § 31-47 OF THIS SUBTITLE, and [made] ARE a lien upon  
3 [such] THE vehicle.

4 (4) (I) IN NO EVENT, HOWEVER, MAY A VEHICLE'S OWNER OR OPERATOR, OR THEIR  
5 AGENTS, BE CHARGED OR LIABLE FOR ANY TOWING OR OTHER SERVICE IN AN  
6 AMOUNT THAT EXCEEDS THE AMOUNT AUTHORIZED FOR THE SERVICE BY THE 2009  
7 TOWING RATES AGREEMENT, AS PROPOSED TO THE BOARD OF ESTIMATES ON  
8 APRIL 1, 2009.

9 (II) THE CHARGES AUTHORIZED BY THE 2009 TOWING RATES AGREEMENT MAY NOT  
10 BE INCREASED AT ANY TIME WITHIN 5 YEARS FROM APRIL 1, 2009.

11 **§ 31-47. Storage charges.**

12 (a) *Basic charges.*

13 (1) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section for commercial vehicles, the  
14 storage charge for each vehicle delivered to the storage area is as follows:

15 (i) for the 1<sup>st</sup> 48 hours or any shorter period, \$50; and

16 (ii) for each 24-hour period or part of a 24-hour period after the 1<sup>st</sup> 48 hours, \$15.

17 (b) *Commercial vehicles.*

18 (1) The storage charges for a commercial vehicle, as defined in the Maryland Vehicle  
19 Law, are as set by the Director from time to time.

20 (2) A schedule of the charges set under this subsection must be filed with the Department  
21 of Legislative Reference before they take effect.

22 (c) *Charges in addition to fines, etc.*

23 The charges imposed by OR UNDER this section are in addition to any other fine, penalty,  
24 or charge imposed for violation of any traffic law.

25 (D) *NO INCREASE FOR 3 YEARS.*

26 THE CHARGES IMPOSED OR AUTHORIZED BY THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE INCREASED AT ANY  
27 TIME WITHIN 3 YEARS FROM APRIL 1, 2009.

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

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