


F R O M	NAME & TITLE	Steve Sharkey, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE M E M O	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation (DOT) 417 E Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 21-0125		

TO: Mayor Brandon M. Scott
TO: Rules & Legislative Oversight Committee
FROM: Department of Transportation
POSITION: **No Objection**
RE: Council Bill – 21-0125

DATE: 10/28/21

INTRODUCTION – Trespass Towing - Revisions

PURPOSE/PLANS – For the purpose of making certain substantive and technical revisions to Article 15 {"Licensing and Regulation"}, Subtitle 22 {"Towing Services - Trespass Towing"}; establishing certain maximum charges for towing services; specifying certain required information to be included on towing service receipts and on daily logs maintained by each towing service; specifying certain limitations on incomplete tows; requiring that a towing service must accept credit cards; prohibiting certain instances of patrol towing; making certain stylistic changes; conforming, clarifying, and correcting related provisions; and generally related to the regulation of trespass towing services in Baltimore City.

COMMENTS – Council Bill 21-0125 seeks to overhaul the City’s existing rules overseeing the practice of trespass towing. The legislation is comprised of several key provisions:

- \$250 cap on towing service fees
- Release fees capped at 25% of towing service fee
- Board of Estimates approval of towing service fee
- Updates receipt and record keeping standards
- Prohibits charging of release fees for incomplete tows
- Requires towing companies accept at least two credit cards as form of payment
- Patrol towing only permitted between the hours of 2:00am to 7:00am

Baltimore City Department of Transportation (DOT) oversees the City’s municipal towing operations via DOT’s Towing Division. Baltimore City’s Towing Division operates two impound facilities, 6700 Pulaski Highway and 410 Fallsway. DOT’s Towing Division primarily conducts right-of-way towing operations.

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT POSITION – The Department of Transportation foresees no immediate direct operational or fiscal impact on the agency and has **no objection** to Council Bill 21-0125.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Liam Davis at Liam.Davis@baltimorecity.gov or at 410-545-3207.

Sincerely,

Steve Sharkey
Director