

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 14-0141R  
(Resolution)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Henry, Scott, Branch, Kraft, Stokes, Spector, Clarke, Curran,  
Mosby, Reisinger, Welch  
Introduced and adopted: January 13, 2014

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**A COUNCIL RESOLUTION CONCERNING**

1                   **Request for State Action – Immediate Towing of Unregistered Vehicles**

2           FOR the purpose of calling on the Baltimore City delegation to the 2014 Maryland General  
3           Assembly to secure passage of a bill removing the 48-hour grace period for unregistered  
4           vehicles on public property from State law so that Baltimore can take immediate and  
5           effective action to rid our streets of these illegal vehicles.

6                   **Recitals**

7           In Baltimore, as is true throughout Maryland, it is illegal for an unregistered vehicle to be  
8           stored on public streets. However, current State law that requires an unregistered vehicle to be  
9           on City streets for 48 hours before it can be towed makes this prohibition difficult to enforce in  
10          practice.

11          The 48-hour grace period required by State law significantly undermines efforts to keep these  
12          vehicles off the streets by effectively requiring enforcement personnel to respond twice to the  
13          same violation before action can be taken. Not only is this a burden on already stretched thin  
14          City resources when a complaint is filed, it also makes enforcement sweeps all but impossible  
15          because unregistered vehicles discovered on the streets cannot be towed on the spot. Even  
16          worse, in Baltimore’s built-up urban environment, a vehicle owner can effectively thwart  
17          enforcement of the prohibition on unregistered vehicles by simply moving the vehicle a short  
18          distance every couple of days.

19          In order to get unregistered vehicles off of Baltimore’s streets, we need to be able to respond  
20          to complaints when they are made and take immediate action against these vehicles when they  
21          are found so that they can’t simply be moved to evade enforcement. Without this capability, too  
22          many of these potentially unsafe and untraceable vehicles are able to stay out there in violation of  
23          the law.

24          A simple change to § 25-201(b)(7) of the State Transportation Article to remove the 48-hour  
25          grace period from the definition of an abandoned vehicle would allow unregistered vehicles to be  
26          towed immediately upon discovery. This would help to take many of these dangerous vehicles  
27          off of our streets while alleviating parking congestion. Making this small change would be an  
28          easy fix to a genuine problem throughout our City.

EXPLANATION: Underlining indicates matter added by amendment.  
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter deleted by amendment.

**Council Bill 14-0141R**

1       **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
2 Council calls on the Baltimore City delegation to the 2014 Maryland General Assembly to secure  
3 passage of a bill removing the 48-hour grace period for unregistered vehicles on public property  
4 from State law so that Baltimore can take immediate and effective action to rid our streets of  
5 these illegal vehicles.

6       **AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Governor, the  
7 Honorable Chairs and Members of the Baltimore City House and Senate Delegations to the  
8 Maryland General Assembly, the President of the Maryland Senate, the Maryland House  
9 Speaker, the Mayor, and the Mayor’s Legislative Liaison to the City Council.