CITY OF BALTIMORE
COUNCIL BILL 14-0350
(First Reader)

A BILL ENTITLED

1   AN ORDINANCE concerning

2   **Public Towing – Maximum Fees**

3   FOR the purpose of setting the maximum fee that can be charged per tow by an accident
4   tow-truck operator; setting a maximum daily storage fee for vehicles that have been towed
5   under certain circumstances; setting the maximum fee that a vehicle's owner can be charged
6   if the vehicle is moved under certain circumstances; and generally relating to the towing and
7   storage of vehicles.

8   BY repealing and reordaining, with amendments
9   Article 31 - Transit and Traffic
10   Section(s) 22-9 and 31-42(d)
11   Baltimore City Code
12   (Edition 2000)

13   BY adding
14   Article 31 - Transit and Traffic
15   Section(s) 31-11
16   Baltimore City Code
17   (Edition 2000)

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

20   **Baltimore City Code**

21   **Article 31. Transit and Traffic**

22   **Subtitle 22. Towing Services – Accident Towing**

1 **§ 22-9. Schedule of charges.**

2   (a) *Schedule to be filed.*

3   (1) When applying for a license, the applicant shall file with the Police Commissioner a
4   schedule that clearly sets forth that person's proposed charges for towing and for
5   services incident to towing.

6   (2) These charges may be measured by mileage, time, and type of service.

7   (B) *MAXIMUM CHARGES.*

8   (1) *TOWING.*

9   NO MATTER HOW CALCULATED, THE TOWING CHARGES MAY NOT EXCEED THE
10   AMOUNT OF $140 PER TOW.

11   (2) *STORAGE.*

12   THE SCHEDULE MUST SET A MAXIMUM STORAGE FEE OF NO MORE THAN $50 PER DAY.

13   [(b)] (C) *No change without amended schedule.*

14   A licensee may not change the charges without filing with the Police Commissioner an
15   amended schedule that shows the proposed changes.

16   [(c)] (D) *Rejection of schedule.*

17   (1) The Police Commissioner may reject any proposed charges if, in the Commissioner's
18   opinion, the charges are excessive for the service to be performed.

19   (2) In that case, the Commissioner shall return the proposed schedule or amended
20   schedule to the applicant or licensee, as the case may be, with suitable notice of the
21   reasons for rejecting it.

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

23   *Part 2. General Conditions Warranting Impoundment*

24 **§ 31-11. MAXIMUM CHARGES.**

25 THE OWNER OF A VEHICLE REMOVED OR IMPOUNDED UNDER THIS PART 2 {"GENERAL
26 CONDITIONS WARRANTING IMPOUNDMENT"} OF SUBTITLE 31 {"CLEAR STREETS AND
27 IMPOUNDMENT"} MAY BE CHARGED A MAXIMUM OF $140 FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE VEHICLE.

1   *Part 4. Impoundment Procedures*

2   **§ 31-42. Employment of tow trucks.**

3   (d) *Fees.*

4   (1) The towing charges shall be set in advance, arrived at by agreement between the
5   towers, the Commissioner, and the Director, with any disputes as to such charges to
6   be settled by the Commissioner.

7   (2) In the event towing is performed by City forces or vehicles and no employment of
8   towers becomes necessary, the same schedule of charges shall apply. Such towing
9   charges will be added to the cost of storage as hereinafter specified, and made a lien
10   upon such vehicle.

11   (3) NO MATTER HOW CALCULATED, THE TOWING CHARGES MAY NOT EXCEED THE
12   AMOUNT OF $140 PER TOW.

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

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

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