


FROM	NAME & TITLE	William M. Johnson, Director	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Department of Transportation 417 East Fayette Street, Room 527		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 14-0350		

TO

The Honorable President and Members
of the City Council
c/o Karen Randle
Room 400 City Hall

June 27, 2014

I am herein reporting on City Council Bill 14-0350, Public Towing, Maximum Fees. This bill sets the maximum fee that can be charged per tow by an accident tow-truck driver; sets the maximum daily storage fee for vehicles that have been towed under certain circumstances; and sets the maximum fee that a vehicle's owner can be charged if the vehicle is moved under certain circumstances.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports this bill. Additionally, DOT has worked with the bill sponsor and supports his amendments.

This bill does not impact the operations of the tow yard and merely codifies existing practice into law. DOT currently charges \$130 per tow originating east of Charles Street and \$140 per tow originating west of Charles Street. This accommodates for the extended distance of the tow from the west side of the City to the tow yards on the east side. The majority of the revenue compensates the towing company procured on contract for performing the tow. (The City also maintains a fleet of towing vehicles and drivers, and they sometimes perform these tows in-house, as well.) For storage, DOT charges \$50 for the first 48 hours when a vehicle is stored at the tow yard, and \$15 per each day thereafter. Additionally, there is an administrative fee of \$40 assessed to the vehicle owner, and the owner must pay all outstanding parking citations, including the citation that resulted in the tow at issue, before the yard releases his or her vehicle.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully,

Lindsay Wines

Lindsay Wines
Deputy Director, for William Johnson, Director

WMJ/BZ