

MEMORANDUM

DATE:

March 5, 2020

TO:

FROM:

Colin Tarbert, President and CEO (glu)

Position:

SUBJECT:

City Council Bill No. 19-0431 - Towing - Licensing and Regulation

INTRODUCTION

The Baltimore Development Corporation (BDC) is reporting on City Council Bill No. 19-0431 introduced by Councilmembers Dorsey, Cohen, Henry, Burnett, Bullock and Clarke.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Bill is to consolidate the licensing and regulation of towing services in Baltimore City under one administrative body; defining certain terms; establishing the Board of Towing to regulate certain towing services in Baltimore City; requiring a license to perform certain towing services; specifying certain towing services that require additional certification; establishing certain standards of operation; prohibiting certain conduct; imposing certain penalties; allowing for licensure sanctions in certain situations; establishing a hearing process for licensure discipline; allowing for appeals in certain situations; and generally relating to the licensing and regulation of towing services in Baltimore City.

BRIEF HISTORY

The Board of Licenses for Towing Services regulates the towing practices on private property by approving operator licenses, enforcing established rules and regulations, and addressing consumer complaints. The towing of vehicles in the Right of Way is currently overseen by the Traffic Division of the Department of Transportation, not the Board of Licenses, and operators are selected through an RFP process. Consolidating these efforts into one governing Board will allow for clearer standards for operators who choose to certify for the Right of Way, as well as on private property.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

AGENCY POSITION

The BDC has no objection to Council Bill 19-0431.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kimberly Clark at 410-837-9305 or kclark@baltimoredevelopment.com.

cc:

Nicholas Blendy

[KD]