



BILL NO.: Senate Bill 570  
TITLE: Motor Vehicles – Towing Practices and Procedures  
POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**  
DATE: April 8, 2011  
COMMITTEE: Environmental Matters  
CONTACT: Andrea Mansfield

The Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 570 **WITH AMENDMENTS**. This bill would implement the recommendations of the Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing Practices.

The Task Force to Study Motor Vehicle Towing Practices was created by House Bill 684, Chapter 514, Acts of 2008, and was extended to continue its work by HB 978, Chapter 704, Acts of 2009. It was charged with studying certain areas of towing and reporting those findings and recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly. MACo appreciated the opportunity to be represented on this Task Force and believes the statewide framework outlined in SB 570 will serve as an appropriate “floor” to protect citizens from unscrupulous practices.

MACo is concerned with language on page 4 that states that a motor vehicle towing and storage lienor may not sell the motor vehicle to which the lien is attached unless the lienor is licensed by the local jurisdiction. The goal of the licensing requirement is to serve as protection for vehicle owners to ensure a course of action if a vehicle is sold without following the appropriate notification procedures and against the owner’s will. As the Task Force report points out, not all jurisdictions license towing companies, yet this bill provision implies that a jurisdiction would need to establish a licensing process. Instead of having each jurisdiction establish a tower license to satisfy this section, MACo suggests that this language be amended to clarify that it only applies to those local jurisdictions that currently license towers. This would retain the bill’s intended incentives, without a local mandate.

For these reasons, MACo **SUPPORTS** SB 570 **WITH AMENDMENTS** and urges the Committee to give the bill a **FAVORABLE** report **WITH AMENDMENTS**.