



## Towing & Recovery Professionals of Maryland

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### MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Kumar P. Barve, Chair and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Charles Parrish, Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland  
Wayne Sullivan, Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland

DATE: January 27, 2022

RE: **HB 198 Vehicle Laws – Towing – Clearing and Disposal of Debris**

POSITION: **SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS**

The Towing Recovery Professionals of Maryland SUPPORT HB 198 WITH AMENDMENTS. While it may seem the clearing of debris following an accident or towing incident is a manageable task for a towing professional who may be called to the scene, in effect, it could be a very expensive and time-consuming process. TRPM is not opposed to clearing the debris from an accident or other incident, however, it does want to ensure their members receive appropriate payment for doing so.

Many of TRPM's members have contracts with state and local governmental entities for the towing of vehicles. Few of these contracts provide for payment for the removal of debris. The concern would be if the statute states "a person who undertakes the towing or removal of a vehicle from a roadway...SHALL...clear the debris", towing professionals would be required to do so and have no recourse for payment.

The lack of payment for these services is not a new issue. In August of 2016, the Maryland Insurance Commissioner, in response to complaints from towing professionals, issued a bulletin to all property and casualty insurers specifying that liability insurers for the at-fault vehicle is responsible for the cost of removing vehicle accident debris. This has helped address some situations, but as a bulletin, it does not have the force of law.

Another complication with HB 198 is that it does not define the term debris. This term could mean many things to different people. This term should be defined to ensure a collective understanding.

TRPM understands the importance of this issue and understands no one wants to see debris laying on the side of the road, but respectfully requests the opportunity to work with the committee to address these matters to ensure towing professionals are appropriately paid for the work they perform.

For these reasons, TRPM SUPPORTS HB 198 WITH AMENDMENTS.