

RON WATSON, PH.D  
*Legislative District 23*  
Prince George's County

Judicial Proceedings Committee



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## *The Senate of Maryland*

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 3, 2022

### **Chair Smith, Vice-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:**

Thank you for the opportunity to present this legislation before you today.

SB 731 provides for the electronic notification of secured parties/lien holders with vehicle information that is required in statute when a vehicle is towed from a parking lot. The towing company would only be able to contact the secured party electronically if that form of notification is agreed to by the tower and the secured party in writing or by electronic communication.

Most transactions these days can be handled electronically, including purchasing a home, securing a loan, and submitting applications. Authorizing electronic notification in these matters makes sense. Under current law, when a vehicle is towed from a parking lot, the towing company is required to notify the owner, any secured party, and the insurer of record by first-class certified mail, return receipt requested, within 7 days. Providing for electronic notification of secured parties will save towing companies money and will allow for the resolution of matters more quickly should a vehicle owner not contact a tower to reclaim the vehicle. This legislation has been discussed with the Maryland Bankers Association and they approve of the language in the bill and have no concerns.

There are members of Towing and Recovery Professionals of Maryland testifying in support of the bill who can respond more specifically to questions about this bill and the current process.

**For these reasons, I respectfully request the committee to give SB 731 a favorable report.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ron L. Watson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "W".

Senator Ron Watson

Legislative District 23