

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2026 Legislative Session

Bill No. CB-033-2026

Chapter No. _____

Proposed and Presented by Council Members Olson, Ivey, Oriadha, Dernoga, Blegay,
Burroughs, Adams-Stafford, Hunter, Adams and Fisher

Introduced by _____

Co-Sponsors _____

Date of Introduction _____

EMERGENCY BILL

1 AN EMERGENCY ACT concerning

2 Vehicle Access and Recovery Act

3 For the purpose of providing for redemption of a certain vehicle on posted private property and
4 on public and private property; requiring proof of ownership or control of a vehicle; providing
5 for indemnification; providing for prohibited conduct and penalty regarding impoundment;
6 providing for notice to a family member or household member of a vehicle owner; providing for
7 a certain emergency; and generally regarding vehicle access and recovery.

8 BY adding:

9 SUBTITLE 26. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.
10 Sections 26-142.08.01, 26-142.08.02, 26-142.08.03,
11 26-168.01, 26-168.02 and 26-168.03,
12 The Prince George's County Code
13 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

14

15 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

16 SUBTITLE 26. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.
17 Section 26-168,
18 The Prince George's County Code
19 (2023 Edition; 2025 Supplement).

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
2 Maryland, that Sections 26-142.08.01, 26-142.08.02, 26-142.08.03, 26-168.01, 26-168.02 and
3 26-168.03 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are hereby added:

4 **SUBTITLE 26. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.**

5 **DIVISION 10. TOWING AND INPOUNDMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FROM**
6 **PRIVATE PROPERTY.**

7 **Sec. 26-142.08.01. Redemption of vehicle – proof of ownership or control.**

8 (a) To redeem an impounded vehicle, the vehicle owner must present the following to a
9 towing company:

10 (1) either:

11 (A) a U.S. or state government-issued photo identification; or

12 (B) a consular registration card from any approved country; and

13 (2) proof of current vehicle registration issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle
14 Administration, including temporary registration documentation, where applicable.

15 (b) An impounded vehicle may be redeemed by an authorized agent.

16 (1) If the vehicle owner is not present, a vehicle may be released to an authorized
17 agent upon presentation of:

18 (2) a notarized letter signed by the owner authorizing release and custody of the
19 vehicle to the named individual; or

20 (3) a letter from an insurance company, lienholder, or rental car company that
21 indicates the agent is entitled to custody of the vehicle.

22 (c) In lieu of a letter under paragraph (b)(2) or paragraph (b)(3), a vehicle may be released
23 to a family member or household member of the vehicle owner upon presentation of a photo
24 identification issued by the U.S. or state government, a foreign government, or a valid nonprofit
25 organization registered in the State of Maryland; and at least one documentation reasonably
26 establishing shared residence or familial relationship, which may include a utility or service bill,
27 deed, mortgage statement, or current lease agreement that has the same residential address as
28 shown for the registered vehicle, a birth certificate establishing a parent-child relationship, a
29 marriage certificate, or other documentation deemed sufficient by the towing company,
30 consistent with County regulations.

Sec. 26-142.08.02. Indemnification.

A towing company must require, as a condition of release to a person who is not the vehicle owner, execution of an indemnification and hold harmless agreement on a form prescribed by the County. Such indemnification must not extend to claims arising from gross negligence or willful misconduct of the County or towing company.

Sec. 26-142.08.03. Prohibited conduct; penalty.

(a) An authorized agent of a vehicle owner shall not falsely state that the owner authorized the release of a particular vehicle; or provide any false or fraudulent information in connection with redemption.

(b) A person violating Section 26-142.08.01, Section 26-142.08.02 or Section 26-142.08.03 shall pay a fine of Five Hundred Dollars \$500.00.

SUBTITLE 26. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.**DIVISION 18. IMPOUNDMENT.****Sec. 26-168.01. Redemption of vehicle – proof of ownership or control.**

(a) To redeem an impounded vehicle, the vehicle owner must present the following to a towing company:

(1) either:

(A) a U.S. or state government-issued photo identification; or

(B) a consular registration card from any approved country; and

(2) proof of current vehicle registration issued by the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, including temporary registration documentation, where applicable.

(b) An impounded vehicle may be redeemed by an authorized agent.

(1) If the vehicle owner is not present, a vehicle may be released to an authorized agent upon presentation of:

(2) a notarized letter signed by the owner authorizing release and custody of the vehicle to the named individual; or

(3) a letter from an insurance company, lienholder, or rental car company that indicates the agent is entitled to custody of the vehicle.

(c) In lieu of a letter under paragraph (b)(2) or paragraph (b)(3), a vehicle may be released to a family member or household member of the vehicle owner upon presentation of a photo identification issued by the U.S. or state government, a foreign government, or a valid nonprofit

1 organization registered in the State of Maryland; and at least one documentation reasonably
 2 establishing shared residence or familial relationship, which may include a utility or service bill,
 3 deed, mortgage statement, or current lease agreement that has the same residential address as
 4 shown for the registered vehicle, a birth certificate establishing a parent-child relationship, a
 5 marriage certificate, or other documentation deemed sufficient by the towing company,
 6 consistent with County regulations.

7 **Sec. 26-168.02. Indemnification.**

8 A towing company must require, as a condition of release to a person who is not the vehicle
 9 owner, execution of an indemnification and hold harmless agreement on a form prescribed by the
 10 County. Such indemnification must not extend to claims arising from gross negligence or willful
 11 misconduct of the County or towing company.

12 **Sec. 26-168.03. Prohibited conduct; penalty.**

13 (a) An authorized agent of a vehicle owner shall not falsely state that the owner authorized
 14 the release of a particular vehicle; or provide any false or fraudulent information in connection
 15 with redemption.

16 (b) A person violating Section 26-142.08.01, Section 26-142.08.02 or Section 26-
 17 142.08.03 shall pay a fine of Five Hundred Dollars \$500.00.

18 SECTION 2. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
 19 Maryland, that Section 26-168 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is hereby
 20 repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

21 **SUBTITLE 26. VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC.**

22 **DIVISION 18. IMPOUNDMENT.**

23 **Sec. 26-168. - Impoundment; notice to owner.**

24 (a) Within seven (7) full County working days after impoundment any vehicle pursuant to
 25 Section 26-166(a)(1) through (7) of this Code, the police department or Revenue Authority shall
 26 mail a notice by registered mail to the last known registered owner of the vehicle and to each
 27 secured property, as may be disclosed by the vehicle license number, if such be obtainable, and
 28 to any other person who claims the right to possession of the vehicle, if such claim is actually
 29 known to an officer, agent, or employee of the police department who has knowledge of the
 30 impoundment. If a police officer who has knowledge of the impoundment has reason to believe
 31 that an owner or one who claims the right to possession of the vehicle is residing or is in custody

1 at some different address which is known to the officer, a copy of the notice shall also be mailed
 2 by regular mail to such owner or claimant at the known address. If a vehicle is redeemed prior to
 3 the mailing of such notice, then notice need not be mailed.

4 (b) The notice shall contain the following:

5 (1) A statement as to the reason why the vehicle has been impounded;

6 (2) The year, make, model, and vehicle identification number of the vehicle;

7 (3) The location of the impoundment facility where the vehicle is being held;

8 (4) A statement that the vehicle owner or secured party has the right to a hearing to
 9 contest the validity of the impoundment at any time within twenty-one (21) calendar days of the
 10 date of such notice by filing a request for hearing with the Police Department on a request form
 11 which shall be included with such notice; and

12 (5) A statement that the owner, [or] the secured party, or if available, a family
 13 member or household member of the vehicle owner under specified circumstances may have a
 14 right, depending upon the reason for the impoundment, to reclaim the vehicle upon payment of
 15 all outstanding parking violations and traffic citations and all towing and storage charges
 16 resulting from the storage and towing of the vehicle.

17 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby
 18 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,
 19 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of
 20 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining
 21 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this
 22 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such
 23 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, subparagraph, subsection,
 24 or section.

25 SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that in accordance with the provisions of
 26 Section 317 of the Charter, the County Council hereby declares that a public emergency exists
 27 affecting the public health, safety, and welfare; said emergency being the increasing number of
 28 individuals in the County who have been detained by federal authorities resulting in the
 29 individual's vehicle being left behind and subsequently towed.

30 SECTION 5. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on the date it
 31 becomes law.

1 Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2026, by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the
2 members of the full County Council.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Krystal Oriadha
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: _____ BY: _____
Aisha N. Braveboy
County Executive

KEY:
Underscoring indicates language added to existing law.
[Brackets] indicate language deleted from existing law.
Asterisks *** indicate intervening existing Code provisions that remain unchanged.

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