

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland,* That Section 11-1002.2 of Article 66½ of the Annotated Code of Maryland (1970 Replacement Volume), title "Vehicle Laws," subtitle "Rules of the Road," subheading "Stopping, Standing and Parking," be and it is hereby repealed and re-enacted, with amendments, to read as follows:

11-1002.2. Disposition of abandoned vehicles.

(a) *Notice to last known registered owner.*—A police department which takes into custody an abandoned motor vehicle [ , within fifteen days] shall, as soon as reasonably possible and in any event within ~~seventy-two hours~~ SEVEN DAYS thereof, by registered mail, return receipt requested, signed by the addressee, [shall] notify the last known registered owner of the motor vehicle and all lienholders as shown on the records of the Department that the vehicle has been taken into custody. The notice shall describe the year, make, model, and serial number of the abandoned motor vehicle; set forth the location of the facility where the motor vehicle is being held, inform the owner and any lienholders of their right to reclaim the motor vehicle within three weeks after the date of the notice, upon payment of all towing, preservation and storage charges resulting from placing the vehicle in custody, and state that the failure of the owner or lienholders to exercise their right to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided shall be deemed a waiver by the owner and all lienholders of all right, title, and interest in the vehicle and consent to the sale of the abandoned motor vehicle at a public auction.

(b) *Notice by publication.*—If the identity of the last registered owner cannot be determined, or if the registration contains no address for the owner, or if it is impossible to determine with reasonable certainty the identity and addresses of all lienholders, or if the registered mail notice required by subsection (a) of this section is returned as undeliverable, notice by one publication in one newspaper of general circulation in the area where the motor vehicle was abandoned shall be sufficient to meet all requirements of notice pursuant to this section. The notice by publication may contain multiple listings of abandoned vehicles. [Any such notice shall be within the time requirements prescribed for notice by registered mail and shall have the same contents required for a notice by registered mail.] *Such notice shall have the same contents as those required by registered mail, and shall be published within fifteen days of the taking into custody of the motor vehicle except that in the case of said notice by reason of the return as undeliverable of notice by registered mail the notice shall be published within seven days of such return.*

(c) *Effect of failure to reclaim vehicle.*—The consequences and effect of failure to reclaim an abandoned motor vehicle shall be as set forth in a valid notice given pursuant to this subsection [subsections (a) and (b)].

(d) *Sale; disposition of proceeds.*—If an abandoned motor vehicle has not been reclaimed as provided for in subsection (c) [subsections (a) and (b)], the police department shall sell it at public auction. The purchaser of the motor vehicle shall take title to the motor vehicle free and clear of all liens and claims of ownership, shall receive a sales receipt from the police department, and shall be entitled to register the purchased vehicle and receive a certificate of