

Chapter 643

(Senate Bill 501)

AN ACT concerning

**Towing or Removal of Vehicles From Parking Lots – Placement of Signs –
Regional Malls**

FOR the purpose of altering the standards for signage for a regional mall parking lot by requiring that, before being authorized to tow or remove a vehicle, the owner or operator of the parking lot place certain signs at each entrance to the parking lot; defining a certain term; and generally relating to signs regarding the towing and removal of vehicles from regional mall parking lots.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Transportation
Section 21–10A–02
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Transportation

21–10A–02.

(a) **(1) IN THIS SECTION, “REGIONAL MALL” MEANS A SHOPPING MALL WITH AT LEAST:**

(I) 400,000 SQUARE FEET OF GROSS LEASABLE AREA; AND

(II) 2 ANCHOR STORES.

(2) THE SQUARE FOOTAGE OF ANY ANCHOR STORE SHALL BE EXCLUDED FROM THE CALCULATION OF GROSS LEASABLE AREA UNDER THIS SECTION.

(B) The owner or operator of a parking lot or the owner’s or operator’s agent may not have a vehicle towed or otherwise removed from the parking lot unless the owner, operator, or agent has placed in conspicuous locations, as described in subsection **[(b)] (C)** of this section, signs that:

(1) Are at least 24 inches high and 30 inches wide;

(2) Are clearly visible to the driver of a motor vehicle entering or being parked in the parking lot;

(3) State the location to which the vehicle will be towed or removed and the name of the towing company;

(4) State that State law requires that the vehicle be available for reclamation 24 hours per day, 7 days per week;

(5) State the maximum amount that the owner of the vehicle may be charged for the towing or removal of the vehicle; and

(6) Provide the telephone number of a person who can be contacted to arrange for the reclaiming of the vehicle by its owner or the owner's agent.

[(b)] (C) (1) [The] EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE signs described in subsection **[(a)] (B)** of this section shall be placed to provide at least 1 sign for every 7,500 square feet of parking space in the parking lot.

(2) IN THE PARKING LOT OF A REGIONAL MALL, THE SIGNS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE PLACED AT EVERY ENTRANCE TO THE PARKING LOT.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2021.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 30, 2021.