

THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
“Driver Privacy Protection Amendment Act of 2012”, Bill 19-671
“Immobilization Amendment Act of 2012”, Bill 19-672
“Ignition Interlock Amendment Act of 2012”, Bill 19-673



Testimony of
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Before the
Committee on the Environment,
Public Works and Transportation
Mary Cheh, Chairperson

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The Wilson Building
Washington, DC

Good Afternoon, Chairperson Cheh, members of the Committee and Council, and your staffs. My name is Lucinda Babers, and I am the Director of the District's Department of Motor Vehicles. Today I am here to share information related to three proposed DMV related bills submitted to the Council by the Mayor.

The first proposed bill is Bill 19-671, the Driver Privacy Protection Amendment Act (DPPA) of 2012. Although there is currently a federal DPPA, this bill would make the requirements for personal motor vehicle information specific to the District. While the proposed legislation is based on the federal law, there are some important differences. Specifically, since the District does not have toll roads, we eliminated the reference to private toll transportation facilities. Additionally, we expressly prohibited licensed attorneys from using any information obtained for litigation purposes for mass commercial solicitation. We also clarified that emergency contact information may only be released to law enforcement agencies for the purpose of contacting those listed in the event of an emergency. Finally, the proposed bill limits a business to only using motor vehicle information to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by the individual to the business. It should be noted in most cases of the DPPA, the individual must provide signed consent prior to DMV releasing personal information.

The second proposed bill is Bill 19-672, the Immobilization Amendment Act of 2012. Currently, when a person's vehicle is booted or towed for outstanding tickets, the person only must pay the outstanding tickets and fines associated with the license plate on the vehicle at the time it was booted or towed. Therefore, if the customer also owed outstanding tickets on another license plate or had moving violations, we could not collect these funds. Clearly, the intent of booting and towing a vehicle is to collect all outstanding fines owed by the vehicle owner. This

bill would allow DMV to collect all outstanding ticket fines, boot fees and storage fees owed by the individual.

The final proposed bill is Bill 19-673, the Ignition Interlock Amendment Act of 2012. An ignition interlock is a device that is put on a vehicle which only allows the vehicle to start after the person has blown into the device and proved they have not been drinking alcohol. Currently, a person is only eligible for the ignition interlock program after a second conviction. Best practices recommend that, to prevent people from driving under the influence of alcohol, consideration should be given to allowing people to enter the program sooner rather than later.

Therefore, this bill would allow for installation of an ignition interlock device upon the first conviction or upon revocation of an operator's permit by the Mayor, or his designated agent, for specified alcohol related offenses.

We appreciate the continued support we've received from you, this Committee and your staff. It would be my pleasure to respond to any questions you may have.

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