



House of Representatives

File No. 958

General Assembly

January Session, 2025

(Reprint of File No. 568)

Substitute House Bill No. 7162
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 27, 2025

AN ACT REFORMING THE MOTOR VEHICLE TOWING STATUTES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

3 [(a) (1) An owner or lessee of private property, or his or her agent,
4 may remove or cause to be removed , or may use a wheel-locking device
5 to render immovable, any motor vehicle left without authorization on
6 such property in accordance with the provisions of this section and
7 sections 14-145a to 14-145c, inclusive, provided any owner or lessee of
8 private commercial property, or his or her agent, shall install
9 conspicuous signage stating that motor vehicles left without
10 authorization on such private commercial property may be removed or
11 rendered immovable and indicating where such motor vehicle will be
12 stored, how the vehicle may be redeemed and any costs or fees that may
13 be charged.

14 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this
15 subsection, an owner or lessee of private commercial property or such
16 owner or lessee's agent may tow any motor vehicle left without
17 authorization on such property and no signage warning of such towing
18 shall be required to be installed by such owner or lessee if such motor
19 vehicle]

20 (a) For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle" does not include
21 an authorized emergency vehicle.

22 (b) (1) An owner or lessee of private property, or such owner or
23 lessee's agent, may utilize a wrecker service to tow any motor vehicle
24 left without authorization on such private property in accordance with
25 the provisions of this section, sections 14-145a and 14-145c, as amended
26 by this act, and section 3 of this act, provided such owner or lessee, or
27 such owner or lessee's agent, signs or electronically signs a written
28 authorization form for each such tow. Such written authorization form
29 shall be prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles and shall
30 include, but need not be limited to, (A) the make, model, vehicle
31 identification number and number plate of the motor vehicle to be
32 towed, (B) the reason for the tow, (C) the name, job title, residential or
33 business address and telephone number of the owner, lessee or agent
34 authorizing the tow, (D) the date and time that such authorization to
35 tow was given, (E) confirmation that conspicuous signage, if required
36 pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of this act, is installed, (F) in cases
37 where (i) a wrecker service, acting as an agent on behalf of the owner or
38 lessee of private property pursuant to a written contract, signs or
39 electronically signs the written authorization form to tow a motor
40 vehicle, and (ii) the reason for such tow is a violation of a parking rule
41 established by such owner or lessee and listed in such contract, a copy
42 of the portion of such contract that lists each parking rule established,
43 and (G) a certification, signed under penalty of false statement pursuant
44 to section 53a-157b, that the statements made are true and correct to the
45 best of such person's knowledge, information and belief.

46 (2) No owner or lessee of private property, or such owner or lessee's

47 agent, shall (A) issue a parking citation by written warning, posted
48 signage or other means to impose a monetary sanction on an owner of a
49 motor vehicle parked on such private property, or (B) render a motor
50 vehicle on such private property immovable through the use of a wheel-
51 locking device. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to an
52 independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a)
53 of section 10a-173, or a private secondary school.

54 (c) (1) No wrecker service may act as an agent of the owner or lessee
55 of a private property with the authority to sign or electronically sign the
56 written authorization form to tow a motor vehicle from such private
57 property, unless such wrecker service and the owner or lessee have
58 executed a written contract concerning the provision of general towing
59 services on such private property. If any such contract is executed, a
60 wrecker service may sign or electrically sign the written authorization
61 form to tow a motor vehicle from such private property that is left (A)
62 in a space reserved, as required in section 14-253a, for exclusive use by
63 persons who are blind and persons with disabilities and such vehicle
64 does not bear a removable windshield placard or special license plate,
65 as defined in section 14-253a, (B) in an area reserved for authorized
66 emergency vehicles, (C) within ten feet of a fire hydrant, as provided in
67 section 14-251, (D) blocking building access, (E) blocking entry to or exit
68 from such property or a parking space on such property, [or] (F) [for
69 forty-eight or more hours] in or obstructing a vehicular traffic aisle, or
70 (G) leaking a fluid that presents a hazard or threat. Any such contract
71 may also permit the wrecker service to tow a motor vehicle from such
72 private property for violating specific parking rules established by the
73 owner or lessee, provided (i) such parking rules are listed in the
74 contract, and (ii) the purpose of any such parking rule is to promote the
75 convenience, safety or welfare of motor vehicle operators on the private
76 property, preserve the private property from abuse or make a fair
77 distribution of parking resources.

78 [(3) A lending institution may repossess any motor vehicle, in
79 accordance with the provisions of section 36a-785, by contracting with a
80 wrecker licensed under section 14-66 or an entity exempt from such

81 licensure, as provided in subsection (f) of section 14-66, to tow or
82 otherwise remove such motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions
83 of this section and sections 14-145a to 14-145c, inclusive. In the case of a
84 repossession, no signage as described in subdivision (1) of this
85 subsection shall be required.

86 (4) This section shall not apply to law enforcement, fire-fighting,
87 rescue, ambulance or emergency vehicles which are marked as such, or
88 to motor vehicles left without authorization on property leased by any
89 governmental agency.]

90 (2) No owner or lessee of a parking facility or residential parking
91 facility, as such terms are defined in section 3 of this act, or such owner
92 or lessee's agent, shall authorize the towing of a motor vehicle in such
93 parking facility or residential parking facility solely because the vehicle
94 has an expired registration in violation of section 14-12, unless such
95 owner, lessee or agent affixes a written notice to such motor vehicle at
96 least fourteen days prior to towing such vehicle. Any such notice shall
97 (A) state that the motor vehicle has an expired registration in violation
98 of section 14-12, (B) state that the motor vehicle will be towed from the
99 parking facility or residential parking facility without the consent of the
100 owner or operator of the motor vehicle if the motor vehicle remains at
101 or returns to the parking facility or residential parking facility not later
102 than fourteen days after the day the notice was affixed to the motor
103 vehicle and such motor vehicle still has an expired registration, (C)
104 indicate the time and date after which the motor vehicle may be towed
105 from such private property if the motor vehicle still has an expired
106 registration, (D) indicate the time and date when the notice is affixed to
107 the motor vehicle, and (E) be affixed to the motor vehicle at a
108 conspicuous location on the windshield nearest the operator's side.

109 (3) No owner or lessee of a residential parking facility, or such owner
110 or lessee's agent, shall authorize the towing of a motor vehicle on such
111 residential parking facility solely because the permit to park at such
112 residential parking facility issued by such owner, lessee or agent has
113 expired, unless such owner, lessee or agent affixes a written notice to

114 such motor vehicle at least seventy-two hours prior to towing such
115 vehicle. Any such notice shall (A) state that the permit to park at such
116 residential parking facility issued by the owner, lessee or agent has
117 expired, (B) state that the motor vehicle will be towed from the
118 residential parking facility without the consent of the owner or operator
119 of the motor vehicle if the motor vehicle remains at or returns to the
120 residential parking facility without a valid permit issued by the owner,
121 lessee or agent not later than seventy-two hours after the time the notice
122 was affixed to the motor vehicle, (C) indicate the time after which the
123 motor vehicle may be towed from such private property if the motor
124 vehicle does not have a valid permit, (D) indicate the time when the
125 notice is affixed to the motor vehicle, and (E) be affixed to the motor
126 vehicle at a conspicuous location on the windshield nearest the
127 operator's side. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to a
128 motor vehicle with a temporary or visitor permit to park at such
129 residential parking facility issued by such owner, lessee or agent,
130 provided any such temporary or visitor permit clearly states the
131 expiration of such permit.

132 (d) (1) Before a wrecker service connects a wrecker to a motor vehicle
133 without the consent of the motor vehicle's owner or operator, the
134 wrecker service shall take at least two photographs of the motor vehicle
135 that are of sufficient resolution to clearly show the reason for towing
136 such motor vehicle and the condition of such motor vehicle.

137 (2) (A) Upon request by the owner or operator of a towed motor
138 vehicle, or such owner or operator's agent, the lienholder of the towed
139 motor vehicle or the insurance company acting on behalf of the owner
140 of the towed motor vehicle, the wrecker service shall provide, at no cost,
141 (i) a copy of the written authorization form described in subsection (b)
142 of this section, and (ii) copies of the photographs taken pursuant to
143 subdivision (1) of this subsection.

144 (B) A rebuttable presumption that a wrecker service did not have
145 authorization to tow is created by evidence that the wrecker service
146 failed to provide a copy of such written authorization form. A rebuttable

147 presumption that a wrecker service damaged a motor vehicle is created
148 by evidence that the wrecker service failed to provide photographs of
149 the motor vehicle's condition upon request by such owner, operator,
150 agent, lienholder or insurance company and the motor vehicle has
151 suffered damage. A rebuttable presumption that the tow was performed
152 in violation of the provisions of this section is created by evidence that
153 a wrecker service failed to provide a photograph that shows the reason
154 for towing such motor vehicle.

155 (e) (1) If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle returns to the motor
156 vehicle that has not yet been connected to a wrecker, the wrecker service
157 shall stop preparations to tow the motor vehicle and inform the owner
158 or operator that if such owner or operator moves the motor vehicle or
159 rectifies the reason for the tow, the wrecker service will not tow such
160 motor vehicle and will not charge a fee to the owner or operator.

161 (2) If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle returns to the motor
162 vehicle that has been connected to a wrecker, but has not yet been
163 removed from the private property, the wrecker service shall stop
164 preparations to tow the motor vehicle and inform the owner or operator
165 that the wrecker service will release the motor vehicle upon payment of
166 a drop fee, as established by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in
167 accordance with section 7 of this act. The wrecker service shall accept
168 payment of such drop fee by cash or credit or debit card, provide a
169 receipt to such owner or operator and immediately release the motor
170 vehicle upon receipt of such payment. If such owner or operator does
171 not pay such drop fee, the wrecker service shall proceed with the tow
172 and provide a copy of the consumer bill of rights regarding towing
173 developed pursuant to section 5 of this act to such owner or operator.

174 [(b)] (f) (1) (A) [When] Not later than two hours after an unauthorized
175 motor vehicle is towed or otherwise removed by a wrecker [licensed
176 under section 14-66] service, or a repossessed motor vehicle is towed or
177 otherwise removed by a wrecker service or an exempt entity, as
178 described in subsection (g) of section 14-66, as amended by this act, the
179 [licensee or operator of the] wrecker service or the exempt entity shall

180 notify the local police department [of the tow or removal within two
181 hours] or resident state trooper serving the municipality where the tow
182 or removal was conducted and specify the time the motor vehicle was
183 towed or removed, the location from which the vehicle was removed
184 and the location at which the vehicle is stored. Such notification shall be
185 submitted, in writing, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail and
186 the record of such notification shall be retained by such [licensee,
187 operator] wrecker service or exempt entity in accordance with the
188 provisions of section 14-66b, as amended by this act. [(B)] No such
189 [licensee, operator] wrecker service or exempt entity may charge a
190 storage fee for an unauthorized or repossessed motor vehicle for the
191 time it is stored prior to notification of the local police department or
192 resident state trooper by the [licensee, operator] wrecker service or
193 exempt entity.

194 (B) If such motor vehicle [is not claimed within] remains unclaimed
195 forty-eight hours after the notification pursuant to subparagraph (A) of
196 this subdivision, the [licensee or operator of the] wrecker service or
197 owner of the garage where such motor vehicle is stored or the exempt
198 entity shall immediately complete a notice of such tow, on a form
199 prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and mail a copy of
200 such form by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and
201 all lienholders of record. If the motor vehicle is not claimed by its owner
202 within the time [period] periods specified in subsection [(e) of section
203 14-150, the licensee or operator of the wrecker or] (b) of section 14 of this
204 act, the wrecker service or owner of the garage where such motor vehicle
205 is stored or the exempt entity may dispose of such motor vehicle in
206 accordance with the provisions of [subsection (e) and subsections (g) to
207 (j), inclusive, of section 14-150] section 14 of this act.

208 [(2) (A) When an unauthorized motor vehicle is rendered immovable
209 through use of a wheel-locking device by an owner or lessee of private
210 property or his or her agent, such owner, lessee or agent shall notify the
211 local police department of such action within two hours. Such
212 notification shall be submitted in writing or transmitted by facsimile or
213 electronic mail. The record of such notification shall be retained by such

214 owner, lessee or agent at the private property upon which such action
215 took place, for a period of not less than six months and shall be available
216 for inspection during regular business hours by any sworn member of
217 the local police department or law enforcement officer or inspector
218 designated by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

219 (B) No owner, lessee or agent may charge a fee to remove a wheel-
220 locking device prior to notification of the local police department. The
221 fee charged to remove a wheel-locking device may not be more than
222 fifty dollars. The person claiming the motor vehicle may choose to pay
223 such fee in cash, by check or by debit or credit card. Ten per cent of such
224 fee shall be remitted to the local police department by the owner, lessee
225 or agent. If such motor vehicle is not claimed within forty-eight hours
226 after being rendered immovable, the owner, lessee or agent shall
227 immediately complete a notice that such motor vehicle has been
228 rendered immovable, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and
229 mail a copy of such form by certified mail, return receipt requested, to
230 the owner of such motor vehicle and all lienholders of record. If the
231 motor vehicle is not claimed by its owner within the time period
232 specified in subsection (e) of section 14-150, the owner, lessee or agent
233 may dispose of such motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions of
234 subsection (e) and subsections (g) to (j), inclusive, of section 14-150.]

235 [(3)] (2) The local police department or resident state trooper, not later
236 than forty-eight hours after receiving notification of a tow or removal of
237 an unauthorized motor vehicle pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
238 subsection, [or use of a wheel-locking device pursuant to subdivision (2)
239 of this subsection,] shall enter the vehicle identification number into the
240 National Crime Information Center database and the Connecticut On-
241 Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing System to
242 determine whether such motor vehicle has been reported as stolen. If
243 such motor vehicle has been reported as stolen, the local police
244 department or resident state trooper shall immediately notify the
245 department that reported the vehicle as stolen.

246 [(c)] (g) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with

247 the provisions of chapter 54, (1) specifying the circumstances under
248 which title to any motor vehicle towed or stored, or both, [or rendered
249 immovable] under this section may be transferred to any wrecker
250 service or person, firm or corporation [towing,] storing [or rendering
251 immovable] such vehicle, and (2) establishing the procedure whereby
252 such wrecker service or person, firm or corporation may obtain title to
253 such motor vehicle.

254 [(d) No owner or lessee of private property, or his or her agent, shall
255 issue a parking citation by written warning, posted signage or other
256 means to impose a monetary sanction on an owner of a motor vehicle
257 parked on such property. The provisions of this subsection shall not
258 apply to an independent institution of higher education, as defined in
259 subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or a private secondary school.]

260 [(e)] (h) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall,
261 for a first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction and be
262 fined fifty dollars, and, for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not
263 less than fifty dollars and not more than one hundred dollars or
264 imprisoned not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned.

265 (i) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the provisions
266 of this section shall not apply to (1) a motor vehicle towed with the
267 consent of the owner or operator, or (2) a motor vehicle subject to
268 repossession.

269 (j) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the right of a
270 municipality or the state to remove an abandoned motor vehicle in
271 accordance with the provisions of section 14-150, as amended by this
272 act.

273 Sec. 2. Section 14-145a of the general statutes is repealed and the
274 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

275 [(a) No vehicle shall be towed or removed from private property
276 except (1) upon express instruction of the owner or lessee, or his or her
277 agent, of the property upon which the vehicle is trespassing, or (2) for

278 the purpose of repossession of the motor vehicle by a lending
279 institution. No vehicle shall be rendered immovable on private property
280 through the use of a wheel-locking device except upon express
281 instruction of the owner or lessee, or his or her agent. Nothing in this
282 subsection shall be construed to limit the right of a municipality or the
283 state to remove an abandoned motor vehicle in accordance with the
284 provisions of section 14-150.

285 (b) No person or firm that tows or removes] No wrecker service that
286 tows a motor vehicle from private property [or renders a motor vehicle
287 immovable on private property] shall rebate or pay any money or other
288 valuable consideration to the owner or lessee, or [his or her] such owner
289 or lessee's agent, of the property from which the motor vehicle is towed,
290 [or removed or on which the vehicle is rendered immovable,] or to a
291 lending institution, for the privilege of towing [, removing or rendering
292 immovable] such motor vehicle.

293 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
294 section:

295 (1) "Parking facility" means one or more lots, garages, parking
296 terminals or other structures and accommodations located on private
297 property for the parking of motor vehicles off of any highway;

298 (2) "Residential parking facility" means a parking facility that is
299 located at a multifamily dwelling consisting of five or more units, a
300 condominium or a common interest community;

301 (3) "Condominium" has the same meaning as provided in section 47-
302 68a of the general statutes; and

303 (4) "Common interest community" has the same meaning as provided
304 in section 47-202 of the general statutes.

305 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section, no
306 owner or lessee of a parking facility or residential parking facility, or
307 such owner or lessee's agent, may utilize a wrecker service to tow any

308 motor vehicle left without authorization at such parking facility
309 pursuant to the provisions of section 14-145 of the general statutes, as
310 amended by this act, unless such owner, lessee or agent installs
311 conspicuous signage as required pursuant to the provisions of this
312 section at such parking facility at least forty-eight hours before a motor
313 vehicle may be towed from such facility.

314 (2) Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of this section, no
315 wrecker service shall tow a motor vehicle from a parking facility or
316 residential parking facility pursuant to the provisions of section 14-145
317 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, unless such wrecker
318 service verifies conspicuous signage, as required pursuant to the
319 provisions of this section, is installed at such parking facility.

320 (c) (1) The owner, lessee or agent of a parking facility or residential
321 parking facility shall install conspicuous signage at all entryways to
322 such facility. Such conspicuous signage shall (A) bear the international
323 symbol for towing, (B) be at least twelve inches long and eighteen inches
324 wide with letters not less than one inch in height, (C) state that motor
325 vehicles left without authorization at such facility may be removed at
326 the expense of the owner of the motor vehicle, (D) state any costs or fees
327 that may be charged, and (E) provide the name, address and telephone
328 number for the wrecker service performing the tow or, alternatively, a
329 telephone number in order for the motor vehicle owner or operator to
330 locate where such motor vehicle has been stored and obtain information
331 regarding how to redeem such motor vehicle.

332 (2) If such owner, lessee or agent designates one or more spaces as
333 restricted parking spaces and the parking facility or residential parking
334 facility is otherwise unrestricted, such owner, lessee or agent shall,
335 instead of installing at all entryways to such facility, install such
336 conspicuous signage that prohibits unauthorized vehicles from parking
337 in such designated spaces at (A) the right or left side of each entrance to
338 a designated area or group of parking spaces located on the restricted
339 portion of the facility, or (B) the end of a restricted parking space so that
340 the sign is in front of a vehicle that is parking in the space.

341 (3) If such owner, lessee or agent imposes further specific parking
342 restrictions in an area to which conspicuous signs are installed for
343 individual restricted parking spaces and any such sign is in front of a
344 vehicle that is parked in the space, the conspicuous signage shall also
345 indicate that the space is reserved for a particular unit number, person
346 or type of person, such as a resident.

347 (4) The owner or lessee of a parking facility or residential parking
348 facility, or such owner or lessee's agent, shall also install conspicuous
349 signage that lists the parking rules of such facility which if violated
350 would cause a motor vehicle to be towed from such facility. The purpose
351 of any such parking rule shall be to promote the convenience, safety or
352 welfare of motor vehicle operators on the facility, preserve the facility
353 from abuse or make a fair distribution of parking resources at the
354 facility.

355 (d) Conspicuous signage, as described in subsection (c) of this section,
356 is not required to be installed at a parking facility or residential parking
357 facility if a motor vehicle is left (1) in a space reserved, as required in
358 section 14-253a of the general statutes, for exclusive use by persons who
359 are blind and persons with disabilities, and such motor vehicle does not
360 bear a removable windshield placard or special license plate, as defined
361 in section 14-253a of the general statutes; (2) in an area reserved for
362 authorized emergency vehicles; (3) within ten feet of a fire hydrant, as
363 provided in section 14-251 of the general statutes; (4) blocking building
364 access; (5) blocking entry to or exit from such property or a parking
365 space on such facility; (6) in or obstructing a vehicular traffic aisle; (7) in
366 such facility and is leaking a fluid that presents a hazard or threat; or (8)
367 in an area not designated for the parking of motor vehicles.

368 (e) The owner or lessee of a parking facility, or such owner or lessee's
369 agent, may utilize the services of a wrecker service to tow a motor
370 vehicle left without authorization at such parking facility without
371 installing such conspicuous signage, provided such owner, lessee or
372 agent affixes a written notice to such motor vehicle at least forty-eight
373 hours prior to towing such vehicle. Any such notice shall (1) state that

374 the motor vehicle will be towed from the parking facility without the
375 consent of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle if the motor
376 vehicle remains parked at the parking facility, (2) indicate the time when
377 the motor vehicle will be removed, which shall not be earlier than forty-
378 eight hours after the time the notice was affixed to the motor vehicle, (3)
379 indicate the time when the notice is affixed to the motor vehicle, and (4)
380 be affixed to the motor vehicle at a conspicuous location on the
381 windshield nearest the operator's side. The provisions of this subsection
382 shall not apply to a residential parking facility.

383 (f) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a
384 first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined
385 fifty dollars, and, for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not less
386 than fifty dollars and not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned
387 not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned.

388 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) For the purposes of this
389 section, (1) "wrecker service" has the same meaning as provided in
390 section 14-1 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, (2)
391 "nonconsensual towing or transporting" has the same meaning as
392 provided in section 14-66 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
393 and (3) "parking facility" and "residential parking facility" have the same
394 meanings as provided in section 3 of this act.

395 (b) A municipality may, by ordinance of its legislative body, regulate
396 the provision of motor vehicle towing or transporting and storage of
397 motor vehicles by wrecker services within such municipality, except
398 motor vehicle towing or transporting performed with the prior consent
399 or authorization of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle or
400 performed due to the repossession of motor vehicles. Any such
401 ordinance may regulate, in a manner not inconsistent with the general
402 statutes, the provision of nonconsensual towing or transporting and the
403 management of parking facilities and residential parking facilities. In
404 the event a motor vehicle is towed from a municipality that adopted an
405 ordinance pursuant to the provisions of this section and subsequently
406 stored at a motor vehicle storage facility located in another municipality

407 that adopted an ordinance, the provisions of the ordinance adopted by
408 the municipality where the motor vehicle is towed from shall control.

409 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than September 1,
410 2025, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the
411 Attorney General, shall develop, and thereafter revise as necessary, a
412 consumer bill of rights regarding towing that includes, but is not limited
413 to, (1) a summary of the rights and responsibilities of a motor vehicle
414 owner or operator if such motor vehicle is subject to nonconsensual
415 towing or transporting, as defined in section 14-66 of the general
416 statutes, as amended by this act; (2) when a wrecker service shall be
417 available for the purpose of vehicle redemption and removing any
418 personal property from within a stored motor vehicle; (3) the schedule
419 of rates and charges that a wrecker service may charge for private-
420 property trespass towing, as defined in section 7 of this act, police-
421 ordered towing, as defined in section 8 of this act, and storage; (4) a
422 description of the records and photographs that an owner or operator
423 may request from the wrecker service pursuant to the provisions of
424 section 14-145 of the general statutes, as amended by this act; (5) a
425 warning that a wrecker service may sell towed vehicles pursuant to
426 section 14 of this act; and (6) information on filing a customer complaint
427 with the commissioner pursuant to section 14-63 of the general statutes,
428 as amended by this act. The commissioner shall, at a minimum, revise
429 the consumer bill of rights each time the commissioner publishes a
430 schedule of rates and charges for the provision of private-property
431 trespass towing in accordance with section 7 of this act or police-ordered
432 towing in accordance with section 8 of this act. The commissioner shall
433 publish the consumer bill of rights in English and Spanish and make the
434 consumer bill of rights available for public dissemination.

435 (b) On and after October 1, 2025, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
436 shall post the consumer bill of rights regarding towing on the Internet
437 web site of the Department of Motor Vehicles and the Attorney General
438 shall post such bill of rights on the Internet web site of the Attorney
439 General.

440 (c) On and after October 1, 2025, a wrecker service shall post the
441 consumer bill of rights at the wrecker service's place of business and
442 make copies of such bill of rights available for distribution to customers
443 who visit such place of business. If a wrecker service maintains an
444 Internet web site for its business, the wrecker service shall prominently
445 post such bill of rights on such Internet web site.

446 Sec. 6. Section 14-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the
447 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

448 (a) For the purposes of this section:

449 (1) "Nonconsensual towing or transporting" means the towing or
450 transporting and recovery of a motor vehicle without the prior consent
451 or authorization of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle
452 performed (A) in accordance with the provisions of section 14-145, as
453 amended by this act, or (B) pursuant to an order of a police officer or
454 traffic authority;

455 (2) "Police officer" has the same meaning as provided in section 7-
456 294a;

457 (3) "Traffic authority" has the same meaning as provided in section
458 14-297; and

459 (4) "Recovery" means winching, hoisting, uprighting or other similar
460 function performed by a wrecker service to return a motor vehicle to a
461 position where the towing or transporting may be initiated.

462 [(a) (1)] (b) No person, firm or corporation shall engage in the
463 business of operating a wrecker for the purpose of towing or
464 transporting motor vehicles, including motor vehicles which are
465 disabled, inoperative or wrecked or are being removed in accordance
466 with the provisions of section 14-145, as amended by this act, 14-150, as
467 amended by this act, or 14-307, unless such person, firm or corporation
468 is a motor vehicle dealer or repairer licensed [under] pursuant to the
469 provisions of [subpart (D) of this part. (2) The commissioner shall

470 establish and publish a schedule of uniform rates and charges for the
471 nonconsensual towing and transporting of motor vehicles and for the
472 storage of motor vehicles which shall be just and reasonable. Upon
473 petition of any person, firm or corporation licensed in accordance with
474 the provisions of this section, but not more frequently than once every
475 two years, the commissioner shall reconsider the established rates and
476 charges and shall amend such rates and charges if the commissioner,
477 after consideration of the factors stated in this subdivision, determines
478 that such rates and charges are no longer just and reasonable. In
479 establishing and amending such rates and charges, the commissioner
480 may consider factors, including, but not limited to, the Consumer Price
481 Index, rates set by other jurisdictions, charges for towing and
482 transporting services provided pursuant to a contract with an
483 automobile club or automobile association licensed under the
484 provisions of section 14-67 and rates published in standard service
485 manuals. The commissioner shall hold a public hearing for the purpose
486 of obtaining additional information concerning such rates and charges.
487 (3) With respect to the nonconsensual towing or transporting and the
488 storage of motor vehicles, no such person, firm or corporation shall
489 charge more than the rates and charges published by the commissioner]
490 section 14-52. Any person aggrieved by any action of the commissioner
491 under the provisions of this section may [take an] appeal therefrom in
492 accordance with section 4-183, except venue for such appeal shall be in
493 the judicial district of New Britain.

494 (c) Each wrecker used for towing or transporting motor vehicles shall
495 be registered as a wrecker by the commissioner for a fee of one hundred
496 twenty-five dollars. Each such registration shall be renewed biennially
497 according to renewal schedules established by the commissioner so as
498 to effect staggered renewal of all such registrations. If the adoption of a
499 staggered system results in the expiration of any registration more or
500 less than two years from its issuance, the commissioner may charge a
501 prorated amount for such registration fee.

502 (d) An owner of a wrecker may apply to the commissioner for a
503 general distinguishing number and number plate for the purpose of

504 displaying such number plate on a motor vehicle temporarily in the
505 custody of such owner and being towed or transported by such owner.
506 The commissioner shall issue such number and number plate to an
507 owner of a wrecker (1) who has complied with the requirements of this
508 section, and (2) whose wrecker is equipped in accordance with
509 subsection (e) of this section. The commissioner shall charge a fee to
510 cover the cost of issuance and renewal of such number plates.

511 [(b)] (e) (1) The commissioner, or an inspector authorized by the
512 commissioner, shall examine each wrecker, including its number,
513 equipment and identification, and shall determine the mechanical
514 condition of such wrecker and whether or not it is properly equipped to
515 do the work intended. A wrecker shall be deemed properly equipped if
516 there are flashing yellow lights installed and mounted on such wrecker
517 that [(1)] (A) show in all directions at all times, and [(2)] (B) are as close
518 to the back of the cab of such wrecker as practicable. Such lights shall be
519 in operation when such wrecker is towing a vehicle and when such
520 wrecker is at the scene of an accident or the location of a disabled motor
521 vehicle. In addition, each wrecker shall be equipped with a spot light
522 mounted so that its beam of light is directed toward the hoisting
523 equipment in the rear of such wrecker. The hoisting equipment of each
524 wrecker shall be of sufficient capacity to perform the service intended
525 and shall be securely mounted to the frame of such vehicle. A fire
526 extinguisher shall be carried at all times on each wrecker which shall be
527 in proper working condition, mounted in a permanent bracket on each
528 wrecker and have a minimum rating of eight bc. A set of three flares in
529 operating condition shall be carried at all times on each wrecker and
530 shall be used between the periods of one-half hour after sunset and one-
531 half hour before sunrise when the wrecker is parked on a highway while
532 making emergency repairs or preparing to pick up a disabled vehicle to
533 remove it from a highway or adjoining property.

534 (2) No [registrant or operator of any] wrecker service shall offer to
535 give any gratuities or inducements of any kind to any police officer or
536 other person in order to obtain towing business or recommendations for
537 towing or storage of, or estimating repairs to, disabled vehicles.

538 (3) No [licensee] wrecker service shall require the owner of a disabled
539 vehicle to sign a contract for the repair or storage of such owner's
540 [damaged] disabled vehicle as part of the [towing] consideration for
541 towing such vehicle or to sign an order for the repair of, or authorization
542 for estimating repairs to such vehicle, until the tow job has been
543 completed. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit
544 the wrecker service and owner of the disabled vehicle from entering into
545 an agreement for the repair or storage of such vehicle upon the
546 completion of the tow.

547 (4) No [licensee] wrecker service shall tow a vehicle in such a
548 negligent manner as to cause further damage to the vehicle being towed.

549 (5) No [licensee] wrecker service shall knowingly permit any person
550 to occupy a vehicle while the vehicle is being towed. [Nothing in this
551 subsection shall be construed to prohibit the licensee and owner of the
552 damaged vehicle from entering into an agreement for the repair or
553 storage of such vehicle upon the completion of the tow job.

554 (c) Each wrecker used for towing or transporting motor vehicles shall
555 be registered as a wrecker by the commissioner for a fee of one hundred
556 twenty-five dollars. Each such registration shall be renewed biennially
557 according to renewal schedules established by the commissioner so as
558 to effect staggered renewal of all such registrations. If the adoption of a
559 staggered system results in the expiration of any registration more or
560 less than two years from its issuance, the commissioner may charge a
561 prorated amount for such registration fee.

562 (d) An owner of a wrecker may apply to the commissioner for a
563 general distinguishing number and number plate for the purpose of
564 displaying such number plate on a motor vehicle temporarily in the
565 custody of such owner and being towed or transported by such owner.
566 The commissioner shall issue such number and number plate to an
567 owner of a wrecker (1) who has complied with the requirements of this
568 section, and (2) whose wrecker is equipped in accordance with
569 subsection (b) of this section. The commissioner shall charge a fee to

570 cover the cost of issuance and renewal of such number plates.]

571 [(e)] (f) With respect to the nonconsensual towing or transporting of
572 a motor vehicle, no [licensee] wrecker service may tow or transport a
573 vehicle to the premises of any person, firm or corporation engaged in
574 the storage of vehicles for compensation unless such person, firm or
575 corporation adheres to the storage charges published by the
576 commissioner in accordance with section 7 of this act.

577 [(f)] (g) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person,
578 firm, corporation or association: (1) Towing or transporting a motor
579 vehicle, provided such person, firm, corporation or association is
580 licensed as a motor vehicle dealer pursuant to the provisions of [subpart
581 (D) of this part] section 14-52 and does not offer direct towing or
582 transporting to the public or engage in nonconsensual towing or
583 transporting; (2) operating as an automobile club or automobile
584 association licensed under section 14-67; (3) operating as a motor vehicle
585 recycler licensed under section 14-67l or any contractor of such recycler,
586 provided such recycler or its contractor does not offer towing or
587 transporting to the public or engage in nonconsensual towing or
588 transporting; (4) engaging in the business of repossession of motor
589 vehicles for lending institutions, provided it does not offer direct towing
590 or transporting unless licensed as a motor vehicle dealer [under the
591 provisions of subpart (D) of this part] pursuant to the provisions of
592 section 14-52; (5) towing motor vehicles owned or leased by such
593 person, firm, association or corporation; (6) towing or transporting
594 motor vehicles for hire, with the appropriate operating authority, as
595 defined in 49 CFR 390.5, as amended from time to time, provided such
596 person, firm, corporation or association does not offer towing or
597 transporting to the public or engage in nonconsensual towing or
598 transporting; or (7) towing motor vehicles to or from an auction
599 conducted by a motor vehicle dealer licensed pursuant to the provisions
600 of [subpart (D) of this part] section 14-52, provided such person, firm,
601 corporation or association does not offer direct towing or transporting
602 to the public or engage in nonconsensual towing or transporting.

603 [(g)] (h) Any [law enforcement] police officer or traffic authority [, as
604 defined in section 14-297,] may determine that a vehicle blocking a
605 travel lane on a limited access highway constitutes an emergency and a
606 threat to public safety. Upon such determination, such [law
607 enforcement] officer or traffic authority may direct the [operator of a]
608 wrecker service to remove such vehicle. Any such [operator of a]
609 wrecker service shall be held harmless from liability or causes of action
610 for property damages incurred to such vehicle or to its contents or the
611 surrounding area caused by such emergency removal, provided such
612 removal measures are taken under the direction of such officer or
613 authority and all reasonable care is taken by the [operator of the]
614 wrecker service to limit any further damage to such vehicle, such
615 vehicle's contents or the surrounding area.

616 [(h) For the purposes of this section, "nonconsensual towing or
617 transporting" means the towing or transporting of a motor vehicle in
618 accordance with the provisions of section 14-145 or for which
619 arrangements are made by order of a law enforcement officer or traffic
620 authority, as defined in section 14-297.]

621 (i) Any person, firm, corporation or association that violates the
622 provisions of this section shall, for a first offense, be deemed to have
623 committed an infraction and for a second or subsequent offense, shall
624 be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

625 Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
626 section:

627 (1) "Private-property trespass towing" means the towing or
628 transporting of a motor vehicle without the prior consent or
629 authorization of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle performed
630 in accordance with the provisions of section 14-145 of the general
631 statutes, as amended by this act;

632 (2) "Light-duty motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle with a gross
633 vehicle weight rating of less than ten thousand pounds;

634 (3) "Medium-duty motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including
635 any cargo, with a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand pounds or
636 more but not more than twenty-six thousand pounds;

637 (4) "Heavy-duty motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including any
638 cargo, with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six
639 thousand pounds;

640 (5) "Drop fee" means the fee payable for the release of a motor vehicle
641 that has been connected to a wrecker but not yet removed from private
642 property from which such motor vehicle is to be towed;

643 (6) "After-hours redemption fee" means the fee payable for
644 redeeming a motor vehicle from a motor vehicle storage facility outside
645 the wrecker service's hours of operation; and

646 (7) "Nonconsensual towing or transporting" has the same meaning as
647 provided in section 14-66 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

648 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish and publish
649 a schedule of rates and charges for the provision of private-property
650 trespass towing and the storage of motor vehicles. Such schedule shall
651 be effective on January 1, 2026, and shall include (1) flat rates for towing
652 services provided to light-duty, medium-duty and heavy-duty motor
653 vehicles, (2) a fee for additional labor, (3) a drop fee, (4) a mileage fee,
654 (5) storage rates, and (6) an after-hours redemption fee. Not later than
655 November 1, 2025, the commissioner shall hold one public hearing for
656 the purpose of obtaining information to establish the schedule.

657 (c) Such flat rates shall include the first two miles of transportation
658 performed by such wrecker service. No wrecker service may charge a
659 mileage fee for more than thirteen additional miles of transportation
660 provided to a motor vehicle subject to private-property trespass towing.

661 (d) Such storage rates and the after-hours redemption fee shall apply
662 to the storage of light-duty, medium-duty and heavy-duty motor
663 vehicles subject to nonconsensual towing or transporting.

664 (e) The schedule of rates and charges established pursuant to the
665 provisions of this section shall be just and reasonable and reflect the
666 reasonable operating costs of wrecker services that perform private-
667 property trespass towing and store motor vehicles. In establishing such
668 rates and charges, the commissioner shall consider factors, including,
669 but not limited to, the most recent transportation producer price index
670 published by the United States Department of Transportation, rates set
671 by other jurisdictions and the cost of fuel, wreckers, motor vehicle parts,
672 equipment, personnel, workers' compensation insurance,
673 unemployment compensation and insurance premiums.

674 (f) In the period of time between July 1, 2028, and October 1, 2028,
675 inclusive, and every three years thereafter, the commissioner shall hold
676 one public hearing for the purpose of reconsidering the schedule of rates
677 and charges established pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of
678 this section. The commissioner may amend such established schedule if,
679 after consideration of the factors set forth in subsection (e) of this section
680 and the testimony received at the public hearing, the commissioner
681 determines that such established schedule is no longer just and
682 reasonable and does not reflect the reasonable operating costs of
683 wrecker services that perform private-property trespass towing. If the
684 commissioner amends such schedule, such amended schedule shall be
685 effective the January first following each public hearing held pursuant
686 to the provisions of this subsection.

687 (g) Upon the publication of a schedule pursuant to the provisions of
688 this section, no wrecker service shall (1) charge more than the rates and
689 charges contained in such schedule, or (2) charge for services that are
690 not included in such schedule.

691 (h) The uniform rates and charges for the nonconsensual towing or
692 transporting and storage of motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight
693 rating of less than ten thousand pounds established and published by
694 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 14-66 of the
695 general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, shall
696 continue to be effective on and after October 1, 2025, until December 31,

697 2025, inclusive, and no wrecker service shall charge more than such
698 published rates and charges during such period.

699 Sec. 8. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
700 section:

701 (1) "Police-ordered towing" means towing or transporting and
702 recovery of a motor vehicle without the prior consent of authorization
703 of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle performed pursuant to the
704 provisions of section 14-150 of the general statutes, as amended by this
705 act, section 14-307 of the general statutes or any other order of a police
706 officer or traffic authority;

707 (2) "Oversize or overweight motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle,
708 combination of motor vehicle and trailer or commercial vehicle
709 combination, including each such motor vehicle's load, whose
710 dimensions or weight does not conform to the provisions of sections 14-
711 262 of the general statutes, 14-262a of the general statutes, 14-264 of the
712 general statutes, 14-267a of the general statutes and 14-269 of the general
713 statutes or any other requirement specified in the general statutes;

714 (3) "Winching" means the process of moving a motor vehicle by the
715 use of chains, nylon slings or additional lengths of winch cable from a
716 position that is not accessible for direct hookup for towing a motor
717 vehicle;

718 (4) "Nonconsensual towing or transporting" and "recovery" have the
719 same meanings as provided in section 14-66 of the general statutes, as
720 amended by this act; and

721 (5) "Light-duty motor vehicle", "medium-duty motor vehicle" and
722 "heavy-duty motor vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in
723 section 7 of this act.

724 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish and publish
725 a schedule of rates and charges for the provision of police-ordered
726 towing that includes:

727 (1) A base hourly rate that may be charged for towing or transporting
728 services provided to (A) a light-duty motor vehicle, (B) a medium-duty
729 motor vehicle, (C) a heavy-duty motor vehicle, and (D) an oversize or
730 overweight motor vehicle. The commissioner shall identify the services
731 and equipment involved in the provision of such towing or transporting
732 services that are included in such base hourly rate;

733 (2) An hourly rate for winching services, provided such winching
734 service is performed on a vehicle that is located off a paved portion of a
735 highway;

736 (3) Hourly rates or charges for each type of specialized equipment
737 used in connection with the provision of police-ordered towing that are
738 not included in the base hourly rate established pursuant to subdivision
739 (1) of this subsection. Such rates or charges shall account for the cost of
740 each such type of specialized equipment and a reasonable profit margin;

741 (4) Hourly rates for labor that is not included in such base hourly rate;
742 and

743 (5) A charge for necessary administrative services.

744 (c) The schedule of rates and charges established pursuant to the
745 provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be just and reasonable
746 and reflect the reasonable operating costs of wrecker services that
747 perform police-ordered towing. In establishing such rates and charges,
748 the commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to,
749 the most recent transportation producer price index published by the
750 United States Department of Transportation, rates set by other
751 jurisdictions, rates for consensual towing of motor vehicles, the cost of
752 equipment required by regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-23a
753 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the cost of workers'
754 compensation insurance, unemployment compensation and insurance
755 premiums.

756 (d) Not later than ninety days after receipt of a proposed schedule of
757 rates and charges and any supporting documentation from the Police-

758 Ordered Towing Council pursuant to section 9 of this act, the
759 commissioner shall (1) hold a public hearing for the purpose of
760 obtaining additional information concerning such proposed schedule,
761 and (2) establish and publish a schedule of rates and charges for the
762 provision of police-ordered towing. If the commissioner amends the
763 proposed schedule, the commissioner shall provide a written
764 explanation to the council of the reason for such amendment.

765 (e) Upon the publication of a schedule pursuant to the provisions of
766 this section, no wrecker service shall (1) charge more than the rates and
767 charges contained in such schedule, or (2) charge for services that are
768 not included in such schedule.

769 Sec. 9. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
770 section:

771 (1) "Police-ordered towing" and "oversize or overweight motor
772 vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in section 8 of this act; and

773 (2) "Light-duty motor vehicle", "medium-duty motor vehicle" and
774 "heavy-duty motor vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in
775 section 7 of this act.

776 (b) There is established a Police-Ordered Towing Council within the
777 Department of Motor Vehicles for administrative purposes only. Such
778 council shall (1) advise the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles concerning
779 policies affecting police-ordered towing, and (2) develop a proposed
780 schedule of rates and charges for the provision of police-ordered towing
781 of light-duty, medium-duty, heavy-duty and oversize or overweight
782 motor vehicles.

783 (c) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) Three
784 representatives of an organization in the state that represents towing
785 and recovery professionals, appointed by the Governor; (2) two
786 representatives of an organization in the state that represents the
787 commercial trucking industry, appointed by the Governor; (3) one
788 representative of an association of police chiefs in the state, appointed

789 by the Governor; (4) one representative of an association of fire chiefs in
790 the state, appointed by the Governor; (5) one representative of the
791 insurance industry, appointed by the Governor; and (6) the
792 Commissioners of Transportation, Emergency Services and Public
793 Protection and Energy and Environmental Protection and the Insurance
794 Commissioner, or their designees.

795 (d) Appointments to the council shall be made not later than August
796 1, 2025. Each member appointed shall serve for a term of three years and
797 may serve until such member's successor is appointed. Any vacancy
798 shall be filled by the Governor not later than thirty days after the date
799 of such vacancy. The chairperson of the council shall be appointed by
800 the Governor and shall convene the first meeting of the council not later
801 than September 15, 2025.

802 (e) The council shall (1) on or before January 1, 2026, consider the
803 factors set forth in subsection (c) of section 8 of this act and submit to the
804 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a proposed schedule of rates and
805 charges for the provision of police-ordered towing of light-duty,
806 medium-duty, heavy-duty and oversize or overweight motor vehicles;
807 (2) in the period of time between June 1, 2028, and September 1, 2028,
808 inclusive, and every three years thereafter, review and consider
809 adjustments to the rates and charges published in accordance with
810 section 8 of this act and submit such recommended adjustments, if any,
811 to the commissioner; (3) recommend specific procedures for
812 determining whether a service performed by a wrecker service in the
813 provision of police-ordered towing was required; (4) request
814 information from other parties to assist with the work of the council and,
815 in the discretion of the council, hold public hearings for the purpose of
816 obtaining information; and (5) make any additional recommendations
817 to the Department of Motor Vehicles that the council deems
818 appropriate.

819 Sec. 10. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this section:

820 (1) "Wrecker service", "nonconsensual towing or transporting" and

821 "recovery" have the same meanings as provided in section 14-66 of the
822 general statutes, as amended by this act;

823 (2) "Private-property trespass towing", "medium-duty motor vehicle"
824 and "heavy-duty motor vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in
825 section 7 of this act;

826 (3) "Police-ordered towing" and "oversize or overweight motor
827 vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in section 8 of this act;

828 (4) "Rotator" means a wrecker that (A) consists of a rotating
829 superstructure, adjusting boom, operating machinery and one or more
830 operator's stations mounted on a frame attached to a truck chassis, and
831 (B) has the ability to lift, lower and swing loads; and

832 (5) "Exceptional services" means the use of special equipment, such
833 as cutting torches, air compressors and other equipment not generally
834 required for the performance of nonconsensual towing or transporting
835 at the scene of an accident.

836 (b) On and after July 1, 2025, the uniform rates and charges for the
837 nonconsensual towing or transporting and recovery of motor vehicles
838 with a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand pounds or more, but
839 not more than twenty-six thousand pounds, and motor vehicles with a
840 gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six thousand pounds
841 established and published by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
842 pursuant to section 14-66 of the general statutes, revision of 1958,
843 revised to January 1, 2025, shall cease to be effective.

844 (c) On and after July 1, 2025, and until the date the commissioner
845 publishes a schedule of rates and charges for private-property trespass
846 towing in accordance with section 7 of this act or police-ordered towing
847 in accordance with section 8 of this act, as applicable, the maximum
848 hourly rate that may be charged for the nonconsensual towing or
849 transporting and recovery and calculated in accordance with
850 regulations adopted pursuant to section 14-63 of the general statutes, as
851 amended by this act, shall be as follows: (1) For medium-duty motor

852 vehicles, four hundred dollars; (2) for heavy-duty motor vehicles, seven
853 hundred dollars; (3) for oversize or overweight motor vehicles, one
854 thousand five hundred dollars; and (4) for the use of a rotator and one
855 laborer, one thousand two hundred seventy-five dollars.

856 (d) Services included in such maximum hourly rate include (1) the
857 services reasonably necessary to restore the site of the nonconsensual
858 towing or transporting to its original condition, or to restore such site as
859 directed by a police officer, traffic authority or local fire official if such
860 services are completed in less than fifteen minutes; (2) the time spent at
861 the site by a wrecker service waiting to perform any portion of the
862 nonconsensual towing or transporting procedures due to an order of a
863 police officer or traffic authority if such time is less than fifteen minutes;
864 (3) hand tools, wrenches and sockets used in the towing or recovery of
865 a motor vehicle; (4) timbers used in such towing or recovery; (5) air
866 fittings and hoses used in such towing or recovery under one hundred
867 feet; (6) pry bars; (7) reflectors; (8) disconnecting batteries; (9) wheel
868 chocks or scotch blocks; (10) not more than two snatch blocks; (11) cargo
869 retraining straps; (12) chain and binders used in conjunction with
870 wrecker cables; and (13) preparing a motor vehicle for towing.

871 (e) A wrecker service may charge additional fees for exceptional
872 services, which may include the hourly charge for labor and the use of
873 equipment to perform such exceptional services, provided such
874 exceptional services are itemized, reasonable and necessary for the
875 nonconsensual towing or transporting of a motor vehicle.

876 (f) The provisions of this section shall cease to be effective upon the
877 date the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles establishes and publishes a
878 schedule of rates and charges for the provision of police-ordered towing
879 in accordance with section 8 of this act.

880 Sec. 11. Section 14-63 of the general statutes is repealed and the
881 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

882 (a) The [commissioner may make, alter or repeal] Commissioner of

883 Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations governing the administration of
884 all statutes relating to the license and business of dealers and repairers,
885 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

886 (b) (1) For the purposes of this subsection, (A) "nonconsensual towing
887 or transporting" and "recovery" have the same meanings as provided in
888 section 14-66, as amended by this act, and (B) "police-ordered towing"
889 has the same meaning as provided in section 8 of this act.

890 [(b)] (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall [adopt
891 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
892 establishing (1) a procedure whereby] receive, process and investigate
893 complaints from customers of dealers and repairers [may file
894 complaints with the Department of Motor Vehicles] concerning the
895 operations of and services provided by any such [licensees, and (2) a
896 procedure specifying the circumstances under which a licensee may
897 stipulate to a complaint and waive such licensee's right to an
898 administrative hearing. Such regulations shall provide for the
899 commissioner to contact each licensee that is the subject of a complaint
900 in order to notify such licensee of the complaint and to relate to such
901 licensee the particular matters alleged by the complainant. If the
902 commissioner determines that the facts as alleged give rise to one or
903 more violations of law related to the licensee's business, the
904 commissioner may attempt to mediate a voluntary resolution of the
905 complaint acceptable to the complainant and the licensee. Such
906 regulations shall also provide that, if an acceptable resolution to the
907 complaint is not achieved, the commissioner shall complete the
908 commissioner's investigation of the facts and shall, if the commissioner
909 has reason to believe that the licensee has violated any provision of
910 section 14-64, proceed to take any action authorized under the
911 provisions of section 14-64. If, after such an investigation, the
912 commissioner elects not to take action against the licensee, the
913 commissioner shall notify both the complainant and the licensee in
914 writing.] dealer or repairer, including the provision of nonconsensual
915 towing or transporting, recovery or storage of motor vehicles. The
916 commissioner may permit a dealer or repairer to stipulate to a complaint

917 and waive such dealer or repairer's right to an administrative hearing
918 under the provisions of chapter 54.

919 (3) Any complaint filed with the commissioner pursuant to the
920 provisions of this subsection shall (A) be in writing, on a form provided
921 by or acceptable to the commissioner, (B) contain a statement of the facts
922 that form the basis of the claim against such dealer or repairer, (C)
923 include the dealer's or repairer's name, the customer's name and
924 address, the date on which the transaction with the dealer or repairer
925 occurred and, if applicable, the description of any vehicle that is the
926 subject of a complaint, (D) be accompanied by any supporting
927 documentation that pertains to the complaint, including, but not limited
928 to, the written authorization form described in subsection (b) of section
929 14-145, as amended by this act, photographs, invoices, repair orders and
930 evidence of payment, and (E) be mailed or otherwise transmitted to the
931 Department of Motor Vehicles.

932 (4) Not later than fourteen days from the date of receiving a customer
933 complaint, the commissioner shall notify the customer and the dealer or
934 repairer that is the subject of the complaint that the complaint (A) was
935 received and of the particular matters alleged by the customer, and (B)
936 will be subject to further investigation. Such investigation shall consist
937 of a determination of (i) whether the complaint is complete and all
938 relevant documents were received, and (ii) whether the complaint states
939 facts which, if true, would give rise to one or more violations of sections
940 14-51 to 14-66c, inclusive, as amended by this act, sections 14-145, as
941 amended by this act, 14-145a, as amended by this act, and 14-150, as
942 amended by this act, section 3 of this act or any regulation adopted
943 pursuant to said sections or section 16 of this act.

944 (5) In the event that the complaint is incomplete, the commissioner
945 shall notify the customer, in writing, of what deficiencies exist in the
946 complaint and provide the date by which the customer is required to
947 submit documentation to address such deficiencies. In the event that
948 such deficiencies are not addressed by the specified date, no action shall
949 be taken on the complaint and the commissioner shall notify the

950 customer and the dealer or repairer, in writing, that no further action
951 will be taken. The commissioner shall maintain a written record of all
952 conversations with the customer and include such record with the
953 complaint in the records of the department.

954 (6) In the event that the complaint does not state facts that give rise to
955 a violation of sections 14-51 to 14-66c, inclusive, as amended by this act,
956 sections 14-145, as amended by this act, 14-145a, as amended by this act,
957 and 14-150, as amended by this act, section 3 of this act or any regulation
958 adopted pursuant to said sections or section 16 of this act, the
959 commissioner shall notify the customer and the dealer or repairer, in
960 writing, that the commissioner will not proceed with the complaint.
961 Such notice shall include a brief statement of the reasons why the
962 commissioner has taken no action. [The commissioner shall also inform
963 the complainant and the licensee that an unresolved complaint exists
964 and that, unless the commissioner has determined that the allegations,
965 even if true, fail to state a violation of applicable statutory or regulatory
966 standards, the same shall be recorded in the records of the department
967 pertaining to such licensee until such time as the licensee submits to the
968 commissioner satisfactory evidence, signed by the complainant or the
969 complainant's attorney, that the claim has been resolved by agreement
970 with the complainant or submits to the department satisfactory
971 evidence of final adjudication in favor of such licensee.]

972 (7) If, after the investigation, the commissioner determines that a
973 complaint is complete and determines one or more violations of sections
974 14-51 to 14-66c, inclusive, as amended by this act, sections 14-145, as
975 amended by this act, 14-145a, as amended by this act, and 14-150, as
976 amended by this act, section 3 of this act or any regulation adopted
977 pursuant to said sections or section 16 of this act, the commissioner shall
978 notify the customer and the dealer or repairer of such determination.
979 The notification shall relate the particular matters involved in the
980 complaint and inform the dealer or repairer that such dealer or repairer
981 is required to respond to the matters alleged in the complaint not later
982 than ten days after the date of the notification. Upon receipt of the dealer
983 or repairer's response, the commissioner may (A) mediate a voluntary

984 resolution of the complaint that is acceptable to the customer and the
985 dealer or repairer, (B) proceed with an administrative hearing under
986 chapter 54, or (C) determine that no action is to be taken and notify the
987 customer and the dealer or repairer, in writing, of the reason for that
988 determination.

989 (8) If the complaint is resolved through voluntary mediation, the
990 dealer or repairer shall waive its right to an administrative hearing
991 under chapter 54. If the dealer or repairer enters into a stipulated
992 agreement, settlement agreement or consent order and fails to comply
993 with the terms of such agreement or order, the dealer or repairer's
994 license shall be suspended in accordance with the terms of such
995 agreement or order. An agreement between the [licensee and the
996 complainant] customer and the dealer or repairer shall not preclude the
997 commissioner from proceeding to take action if the commissioner has
998 reason to believe that the [licensee] dealer or repairer has violated any
999 provision of section 14-64, as amended by this act.

1000 (9) If the commissioner determines that there is one or more probable
1001 violations of sections 14-51 to 14-66c, inclusive, as amended by this act,
1002 sections 14-145, as amended by this act, 14-145a, as amended by this act,
1003 and 14-150, as amended by this act, section 3 of this act or any regulation
1004 adopted pursuant to said sections or section 16 of this act and that the
1005 department will take action, the department shall notify the customer
1006 and dealer or repairer of such determination and proceed with a hearing
1007 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, regardless of whether
1008 the matter has or has not been settled between the customer and the
1009 dealer or repairer. The commissioner may proceed to take any action
1010 authorized under the provisions of section 14-64, as amended by this
1011 act, and, in the case of police-ordered towing, recommend to the
1012 Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection that such
1013 dealer or repairer be removed from the rotational system maintained
1014 pursuant to section 29-23a, as amended by this act.

1015 (10) A decision by the commissioner not to take action against the
1016 [licensee] dealer or repairer pursuant to the provisions of this subsection

1017 shall be without prejudice to the claim of the customer; and neither the
1018 fact that the [department] commissioner has determined not to proceed
1019 nor the notice furnished to the parties, in accordance with this
1020 subsection, shall be admissible in any civil action.

1021 (11) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations, in
1022 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to implement the
1023 provisions of this subsection.

1024 Sec. 12. Section 14-66a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1025 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1026 (a) Each wrecker service that stores a motor vehicle that has been
1027 subject to nonconsensual towing or transporting, as defined in section
1028 14-66, as amended by this act, shall store such vehicle at the site of the
1029 wrecker service's business in a secured lot. The site shall be open during
1030 the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The wrecker
1031 service shall (1) maintain an advertised telephone number to take
1032 requests twenty-four hours a day from a motor vehicle owner or person
1033 authorized by such owner seeking to redeem a stored motor vehicle or
1034 remove any personal property within such stored motor vehicle, and (2)
1035 if such request is not made during the wrecker service's hours of
1036 operation, provide for such redemption or access to personal property
1037 not later than four hours after such request. A lending institution or
1038 person authorized by such lending institution may only redeem a stored
1039 motor vehicle during the wrecker service's hours of operation.

1040 (b) Any such wrecker service does not have a lien upon the personal
1041 property within a motor vehicle stored at such wrecker service's secured
1042 storage lot and shall permit the owner of the motor vehicle or a person
1043 authorized by such owner to access such motor vehicle and remove any
1044 personal property from within such motor vehicle during such wrecker
1045 service's hours of operation or, if not open, not later than four hours after
1046 receiving a request to remove such personal property.

1047 (c) No wrecker service shall charge for vehicle storage on a day when
1048 such wrecker service does not make the vehicle available for

1049 redemption. The wrecker service may charge an after-hours redemption
1050 fee established by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in accordance
1051 with section 7 of this act if the wrecker service releases a motor vehicle
1052 outside its hours of operation.

1053 (d) The wrecker service shall release a motor vehicle to its owner, a
1054 lending institution or a person authorized by the owner or lending
1055 institution to regain possession, upon demand, provided the owner,
1056 lending institution or authorized person (1) presents proof of
1057 registration, the certificate of title, the bill of sale, the lease for the motor
1058 vehicle or other reasonable proof of ownership, and (2) pays the costs of
1059 towing and storage. The wrecker service shall release the motor vehicle
1060 even if the address on the proof of registration, certificate of title, bill of
1061 sale, lease for the motor vehicle or other reasonable proof of ownership
1062 is different from the current address of the owner or authorized person
1063 redeeming the motor vehicle.

1064 (e) The wrecker service shall accept such payment by cash or credit
1065 or debit card and maintain sufficient cash at the office of such wrecker
1066 service to provide change to the owner or authorized person at the time
1067 of payment. If such payment is made by credit or debit card, the holder
1068 of such credit or debit card shall appear at the office of such wrecker
1069 service and sign the credit or debit card receipt.

1070 (f) Any vehicle owner, lending institution or authorized person shall
1071 have the right to inspect the vehicle before redeeming the vehicle. No
1072 general release of any kind that would release the wrecker service from
1073 liability for damages or from liability for any claim that the vehicle was
1074 towed without justification may be required from any vehicle owner,
1075 lending institution or authorized person, as a condition of release of the
1076 vehicle. A receipt showing the name of the wrecker service and an
1077 itemization of the charges shall be provided to the person paying the
1078 towing and storage costs at the time of payment.

1079 (g) The commissioner shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the
1080 provisions of chapter 54, requiring all wreckers to display either the

1081 name and address or name and telephone number of the licensed
1082 registrant of such wrecker.

1083 (h) Any person, firm, corporation or association that violates the
1084 provisions of this section shall, for a first offense, be deemed to have
1085 committed an infraction and for a second or subsequent offense, shall
1086 be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

1087 Sec. 13. Section 14-150 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1088 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1089 (a) Any person who abandons any motor vehicle within the limits of
1090 any highway or upon property other than such person's own without
1091 the consent of the owner thereof for a period longer than twenty-four
1092 hours shall have committed an infraction and shall be fined not less than
1093 eighty-five dollars. The last owner of record of a motor vehicle found
1094 abandoned, as shown by the files of the Department of Motor Vehicles,
1095 shall be deemed prima facie to have been the owner of such motor
1096 vehicle at the time it was abandoned and the person who abandoned
1097 the same or caused or procured its abandonment.

1098 (b) Any inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles, any officer
1099 attached to an organized police department, any enforcement officer of
1100 a parking authority authorized under an ordinance adopted pursuant
1101 to section 7-204a to enforce parking regulations in the municipality in
1102 which it is located or any state police officer upon discovery of any
1103 motor vehicle, whether situated within or without any highway of this
1104 state, which such inspector or officer determines is a menace to traffic or
1105 public health or safety, shall take such motor vehicle into such
1106 inspector's or officer's custody and cause the same to be taken to and
1107 stored in a suitable place.

1108 (c) Any inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles, any officer
1109 attached to an organized police department, any enforcement officer of
1110 a parking authority authorized under an ordinance adopted pursuant
1111 to section 7-204a to enforce parking regulations in the municipality in
1112 which it is located or any state police officer, upon discovery of any

1113 motor vehicle which such inspector or officer determines to be
1114 apparently abandoned or a motor vehicle without proper registration,
1115 whether situated within or without any highway of this state, shall affix
1116 to such motor vehicle a notification sticker in a manner so as to be
1117 readily visible. This notification sticker shall contain the following
1118 information: (1) The date and time the notification sticker was affixed to
1119 the motor vehicle; (2) a statement that pursuant to this section, if the
1120 motor vehicle is not removed within twenty-four hours of the time the
1121 sticker was affixed, it shall be taken into custody and stored at the
1122 owner's expense; (3) the location and telephone number where
1123 additional information may be obtained; and (4) the identity of the
1124 affixing officer. If the motor vehicle is not removed within such twenty-
1125 four-hour period, the affixing department or parking authority shall
1126 take such motor vehicle into its custody and cause the same to be stored
1127 in a suitable place, except that such department or parking authority
1128 shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the owner of any such motor
1129 vehicle which is determined to be stolen prior to taking such vehicle into
1130 its custody and shall allow such owner to make arrangements for
1131 removal of such vehicle.

1132 (d) If the motor vehicle has no registration marker plates or invalid
1133 registration marker plates, and if such inspector or officer makes a
1134 determination in good faith that (1) the motor vehicle is apparently
1135 abandoned, (2) the market value of such motor vehicle in its current
1136 condition is five hundred dollars or less, and (3) the motor vehicle is so
1137 vandalized, damaged, or in disrepair as to be unusable as a motor
1138 vehicle, title to such motor vehicle shall, upon taking custody of such
1139 motor vehicle, immediately vest in the municipality in which the motor
1140 vehicle was discovered. Within forty-eight hours of the time that such
1141 motor vehicle is taken into custody, the affixing department or parking
1142 authority shall notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in writing,
1143 of the vehicle identification number and a description of the motor
1144 vehicle and thereafter shall immediately sell or transfer such motor
1145 vehicle to a recycler licensed in accordance with section 14-67l. Upon
1146 sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle, the affixing department or

1147 parking authority shall give written notice by certified mail, return
1148 receipt requested, to the person who was the owner of such motor
1149 vehicle at the time of abandonment, if known, which notice shall state
1150 that the motor vehicle has been sold or otherwise disposed of. The
1151 proceeds of the sale or disposition, or the fair market value of the motor
1152 vehicle in its current condition, whichever is greater, less the towing and
1153 sale or disposal expenses and the amount of any fines due, shall be paid
1154 to such person or such person's representatives, if claimed by such
1155 person or such person's representatives within one year from the date
1156 of sale. If such balance is not claimed within such period, it shall escheat
1157 to the municipality. If the expenses incurred by the municipality for
1158 towing and the sale or disposition of such motor vehicle and any such
1159 fines exceed the proceeds of such sale or disposition, such person shall
1160 be liable to such municipality for such excess amount.

1161 (e) Within forty-eight hours of the time that a motor vehicle is taken
1162 into custody and stored pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section,
1163 the affixing department or parking authority shall give written notice
1164 by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and any
1165 lienholders of such motor vehicle, if such motor vehicle appears on the
1166 records of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The wrecker service that
1167 took such motor vehicle into custody shall make a reasonable effort to
1168 identify the owner or lienholders of such motor vehicle and send written
1169 notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and any
1170 lienholders of such motor vehicle. The notice provided by the affixing
1171 department, parking authority and wrecker service shall state: (1) That
1172 the motor vehicle has been taken into custody and stored, (2) the
1173 location of storage of the motor vehicle, (3) that, unless title has already
1174 vested in the municipality pursuant to subsection (d) of this section,
1175 such motor vehicle may be sold [after (A) fifteen days if the market value
1176 of such motor vehicle does not exceed one thousand five hundred
1177 dollars, or (B) forty-five days if the value of such motor vehicle exceeds
1178 one thousand five hundred dollars] in accordance with section 14 of this
1179 act, and (4) that the owner has a right to contest the validity of such
1180 taking by application, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of

1181 Motor Vehicles, to the hearing officer named in such notice within ten
1182 days from the date of such notice. Such application forms shall be made
1183 readily available to the public at all offices and on the Internet web site
1184 of the Department of Motor Vehicles, parking authorities authorized
1185 under an ordinance adopted pursuant to section 7-204a to enforce
1186 parking regulations and state and local police departments.

1187 (f) (1) The chief executive officer of each town shall appoint a suitable
1188 person, who shall not be a member of any state or local police
1189 department, to be a hearing officer to hear applications to determine
1190 whether or not the towing within such municipality of such motor
1191 vehicle was authorized under the provisions of this section. Two or
1192 more towns may join in appointing such hearing officer; provided any
1193 such hearing shall be held at a location which is as near to the town
1194 within which such motor vehicle was towed as is reasonable and
1195 practicable. The commissioner shall [establish by regulation] adopt
1196 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish
1197 the qualifications necessary for hearing officers and procedures for the
1198 holding of such hearings. If it is determined at such hearing that the
1199 vehicle was not a menace to traffic, abandoned or unregistered, as the
1200 case may be, the owner of such motor vehicle shall not be liable for any
1201 expenses incurred as a result of the taking and storage of such motor
1202 vehicle, the lien provisions of this section shall not apply to such owner,
1203 and the department which took and stored such motor vehicle shall be
1204 liable for such expenses. If the owner, prior to such determination, pays
1205 such expenses and the storage charges of such motor vehicle, and it is
1206 determined at such hearing that the motor vehicle was not a menace to
1207 traffic, abandoned or unregistered, as the case may be, the department
1208 or parking authority which took such motor vehicle shall be liable to
1209 such owner for the amount paid by such owner. Any person aggrieved
1210 by the decision of such hearing officer may, within fifteen days of the
1211 notice of such decision, appeal to the superior court for the judicial
1212 district wherein such hearing was held.

1213 (2) The chief executive officer of each municipality shall designate a
1214 suitable person who shall be responsible for the collection of data

1215 concerning abandoned motor vehicles within such municipality and the
1216 preparation and submission of periodic reports to the Commissioner of
1217 Motor Vehicles which shall contain such information as the
1218 commissioner may require.

1219 [(g) The owner or keeper of any garage or other place where such
1220 motor vehicle is stored shall have a lien upon such motor vehicle for
1221 such owner's or keeper's towing or storage charges, or both, that result
1222 from towing or storage under this section.

1223 (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, if the current
1224 market value of such motor vehicle as determined in good faith by such
1225 owner or keeper does not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars and
1226 such motor vehicle has been stored for a period of not less than fifteen
1227 days, such owner or keeper shall, unless an application filed by the
1228 owner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section is pending and the
1229 owner of such motor vehicle has notified such owner or keeper that such
1230 application for hearing has been filed, send a notice of intent to sell that
1231 complies with subsection (h) of this section to the commissioner, the
1232 owner of such motor vehicle and any known lienholder of record of
1233 such motor vehicle within such period. Upon approval by the
1234 commissioner of the notice of intent to sell, the commissioner shall issue
1235 such owner or keeper an affidavit of compliance. Such owner or keeper
1236 shall sell such motor vehicle not less than five business days after the
1237 mailing date of the notice of intent to sell, and apply the proceeds of the
1238 sale toward such owner's or keeper's towing and storage charges.

1239 (2) If the current market value of such motor vehicle as determined
1240 in good faith by such owner or keeper exceeds one thousand five
1241 hundred dollars and if such motor vehicle has been stored for a period
1242 of not less than forty-five days, such owner or keeper shall, unless an
1243 application filed by the owner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section
1244 is pending and the owner of such motor vehicle has notified such owner
1245 or keeper that such application for hearing has been filed, send a notice
1246 of intent to sell that complies with subsection (h) of this section to the
1247 commissioner, the owner of such motor vehicle and any known

1248 lienholder of record of such motor vehicle within such period. Upon
1249 approval by the commissioner of the notice of intent to sell, the
1250 commissioner shall issue such owner or keeper an affidavit of
1251 compliance. Such owner or keeper shall sell such motor vehicle at public
1252 auction for cash, at such owner's or keeper's place of business not less
1253 than five business days after the mailing date of the notice of intent to
1254 sell. Such owner or keeper shall apply the proceeds of such sale toward
1255 the payment of such owner's or keeper's towing and storage charges and
1256 the payment of any debt or obligation incurred by the officer who placed
1257 such motor vehicle in storage. At any public auction held pursuant to
1258 this subsection, such owner or keeper may set a minimum bid equal to
1259 the amount of such owner's or keeper's charges and obligations with
1260 respect to the tow and storage of the motor vehicle. If no such bid is
1261 made, such owner or keeper may sell or dispose of such vehicle.

1262 (h) The notice of intent to sell described in subsection (g) of this
1263 section shall include the make, model and vehicle identification number
1264 of such motor vehicle, the date such motor vehicle was left with the
1265 owner or keeper of the garage for storage and by whom and the
1266 registration number thereof if any number plates are on such motor
1267 vehicle, and shall be placed on file by the commissioner and subject to
1268 public inspection. The notice of intent to sell shall be accompanied by a
1269 statement to the owner and known lienholder of such motor vehicle
1270 indicating the date, time and place of the sale of such motor vehicle, and
1271 the manner of the sale, as specified in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection
1272 (g) of this section. Such owner or keeper shall give such notice and
1273 accompanying statement to such motor vehicle owner and lienholder
1274 by certified mail, return receipt requested. Such statement shall indicate
1275 that any proceeds in excess of such owner's or keeper's charges and
1276 obligations may be claimed by the owner of such motor vehicle within
1277 one year from the date of such sale. The fee for filing such notice of intent
1278 and accompanying statement shall be ten dollars. Any sale under the
1279 provisions of this section shall be void, unless such owner or keeper
1280 provides the notice required by this section.

1281 (i) At the time of a sale conducted under subsection (g) of this section,

1282 such owner or keeper shall provide the purchaser of such motor vehicle
1283 with the affidavit of compliance issued by the commissioner. Except for
1284 a thirty-day period immediately following the date such motor vehicle
1285 was placed in storage under subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this
1286 section, or a sixty-day period immediately following the date such
1287 motor vehicle was placed in storage under subdivision (2) of subsection
1288 (g) of this section, the commissioner may limit the number of days that
1289 such owner or keeper may charge for storage of the motor vehicle prior
1290 to the time such motor vehicle was sold unless such owner or keeper
1291 provides evidence to the commissioner that the storage charges accrued
1292 as a result of such owner or keeper's reliance upon statements or
1293 representations made by the owner or lienholder of the motor vehicle or
1294 as a result of such owner's or keeper's good faith effort to negotiate the
1295 return of such motor vehicle to such owner or lienholder.

1296 (j) The owner or keeper of such garage shall report the sales price,
1297 storing, towing and repair charges, if any; buyer's name and address;
1298 identification of the vehicle and such other information as may be
1299 required in regulations adopted pursuant to this section, to the
1300 commissioner within fifteen days after the sale of the motor vehicle. The
1301 proceeds of such sale, after deducting the amount due such owner or
1302 keeper and all expenses connected with such sale, including the
1303 expenses of the officer who placed such motor vehicle in storage, shall
1304 be paid to the owner of such motor vehicle or such owner's legal
1305 representatives, if claimed by such owner or such owner's legal
1306 representatives at any time within one year from the date of such sale.
1307 If such balance is not claimed within said period, it shall escheat to the
1308 state.

1309 (k) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in
1310 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes
1311 of this section. The regulations shall (1) specify the circumstances under
1312 which title to any motor vehicle abandoned within the limits of any
1313 highway may be transferred to any person, firm or corporation towing
1314 such vehicle, (2) establish the procedure whereby such person, firm or
1315 corporation may obtain title to such motor vehicle, and (3) specify the

1316 circumstances under which the owner of a campground may dispose of
1317 a motor home or recreational vehicle abandoned on such owner's
1318 property and establishing procedures governing such disposal.]

1319 Sec. 14. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Whenever a motor vehicle
1320 is taken into custody and stored pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of
1321 section 14-150 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, or is
1322 subject to nonconsensual towing or transporting, as defined in section
1323 14-66 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, the wrecker service
1324 or owner or keeper of any garage, storage facility or other place where
1325 such motor vehicle is stored shall have a lien upon such motor vehicle
1326 for towing or storage charges, or both, imposed by such wrecker service
1327 or owner or keeper that result from towing or storing a motor vehicle.

1328 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of section 14-150 of the
1329 general statutes, as amended by this act, if such wrecker service or
1330 owner or keeper makes a determination in good faith that the current
1331 market value of the stored motor vehicle does not exceed one thousand
1332 five hundred dollars and such stored motor vehicle has been stored for
1333 a period of not less than fifteen days, such wrecker service or owner or
1334 keeper shall, unless an application filed by the owner of such motor
1335 vehicle pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-150 of the general
1336 statutes, as amended by this act, is pending and the owner of such motor
1337 vehicle has notified such wrecker service or owner or keeper that such
1338 application for hearing has been filed, send a notice of intent to sell that
1339 complies with subsection (c) of this section to the Commissioner of
1340 Motor Vehicles, the owner of such motor vehicle and any known
1341 lienholder of record of such motor vehicle at the end of such fifteen-day
1342 period. Upon approval by the commissioner of the notice of intent to
1343 sell, the commissioner shall issue such wrecker service or owner or
1344 keeper an affidavit of compliance. Such wrecker service or owner or
1345 keeper shall sell such motor vehicle not less than five business days after
1346 the mailing date of the notice of intent and apply the proceeds of the sale
1347 toward the towing and storage charges imposed by such wrecker
1348 service or owner or keeper.

1349 (2) If such wrecker service or owner or keeper makes a determination
1350 in good faith that the current market value of the stored motor vehicle
1351 exceeds one thousand five hundred dollars and if such motor vehicle
1352 has been stored for a period of not less than forty-five days, such
1353 wrecker service or owner or keeper shall, unless an application filed by
1354 the owner pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-150 of the general
1355 statutes, as amended by this act, is pending and the owner of such motor
1356 vehicle has notified such wrecker service or owner or keeper that such
1357 application for a hearing has been filed, send a notice of intent to sell
1358 that complies with subsection (c) of this section to the Commissioner of
1359 Motor Vehicles, the owner of such motor vehicle and any known
1360 lienholder of record of such motor vehicle at the end of such forty-five-
1361 day period. Upon approval by the commissioner of the notice of intent
1362 to sell, the commissioner shall issue such wrecker service or owner or
1363 keeper an affidavit of compliance. Such wrecker service or owner or
1364 keeper shall sell such motor vehicle at public auction for cash, at the
1365 place of business of such wrecker service or owner or keeper not less
1366 than five business days after the mailing date of the notice of intent to
1367 sell. Such owner or keeper shall apply the proceeds of such sale toward
1368 the towing and storage charges imposed by such wrecker service or
1369 owner or keeper, the expenses related to such sale and any debt or
1370 obligation incurred by the officer who placed such motor vehicle in
1371 storage in accordance with section 14-150 of the general statutes, as
1372 amended by this act.

1373 (3) In determining the current market value of the stored motor
1374 vehicle pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (1) or (2) of this
1375 subsection, the wrecker service may deduct for an observed defect or
1376 missing major component part, as defined in section 14-149a of the
1377 general statutes.

1378 (c) (1) The notice of intent to sell described in subsection (b) of this
1379 section shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) the make, model
1380 and vehicle identification number of the stored motor vehicle, (B) the
1381 date such motor vehicle was left with such wrecker service or owner or
1382 keeper and by whom, (C) the registration number if any number plates

1383 are on such motor vehicle, (D) the retail market value of such motor
1384 vehicle as determined by the wrecker service or owner or keeper, and
1385 (E) a statement to the owner and known lienholder that (i) the stored
1386 motor vehicle will be sold if not redeemed in a timely manner, (ii) such
1387 motor vehicle may be redeemed until the point-of-sale, (iii) any
1388 proceeds of such sale, after deducting the amount due to such wrecker
1389 service or owner or keeper and any expenses of the officer who placed
1390 such motor vehicle in storage, if applicable, will be held in an escrow
1391 account and paid to the owner of such motor vehicle or such owner's
1392 legal representatives, if claimed by such owner or legal representatives
1393 not later than one year from the date of such sale, and (iv) if such
1394 proceeds are not claimed within said period of time, such proceeds will
1395 escheat to the state. Such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall
1396 provide such notice and a copy of the consumer bill of rights regarding
1397 towing, developed pursuant to section 5 of this act, to the motor vehicle
1398 owner and lienholder by certified mail, return receipt requested.

1399 (2) Such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall also provide a copy
1400 of the notice of intent to sell to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in
1401 a form and manner determined by the commissioner. Such notice of
1402 intent to sell shall be accompanied by a filing fee of ten dollars and any
1403 other information, such as photographs of the stored motor vehicle, that
1404 the commissioner may prescribe. Such notice of intent to sell shall be
1405 subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined
1406 in section 1-200 of the general statutes. The commissioner may send a
1407 copy of such notice of intent to sell electronically to the owner or
1408 lienholder of such motor vehicle.

1409 (3) Any sale of a stored motor vehicle under the provisions of this
1410 section shall be void, unless such wrecker service or owner or keeper
1411 provides the notices required by this subsection.

1412 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to sell, the commissioner shall
1413 review such notice and determine if the owner of the motor vehicle has
1414 filed a customer complaint concerning such wrecker service or owner or
1415 keeper pursuant to section 14-63 of the general statutes, as amended by

1416 this act. The commissioner shall not approve such proposed sale until
1417 any such customer complaint is resolved. If the commissioner approves
1418 such proposed sale, the commissioner shall issue such wrecker service
1419 or owner or keeper an affidavit of compliance.

1420 (e) (1) Upon receipt of an affidavit of compliance by the
1421 commissioner, such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall mail a
1422 notice of proposed sale to the motor vehicle owner and known
1423 lienholder by certified mail, return receipt requested, that indicates the
1424 date, time and place of the proposed sale of such motor vehicle. Not less
1425 than five business days after the mailing date of the notice of proposed
1426 sale, such wrecker service or owner or keeper may proceed to sell such
1427 motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (1) or (2) of
1428 subsection (b) of this section.

1429 (2) In addition to the thirty-day period immediately following the
1430 date such motor vehicle was placed in storage under subdivision (1) of
1431 subsection (b) of this section, or a sixty-day period immediately
1432 following the date such motor vehicle was placed in storage under
1433 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, the wrecker service may
1434 only charge up to ten additional days of storage for such motor vehicle
1435 after receipt of the affidavit of compliance issued by the commissioner.

1436 (f) At the time of a sale conducted in accordance with the provisions
1437 of this section, such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall provide
1438 the purchaser of such motor vehicle with the affidavit of compliance
1439 issued by the commissioner.

1440 (g) Not later than fifteen days after the sale of a motor vehicle in
1441 accordance with the provisions of this section, such wrecker service or
1442 owner or keeper of such garage shall (1) report the sale price, towing
1443 and storage charges, repair charges, if any, expenses related to the sale,
1444 any proceeds, the buyer's name and address, identification of the vehicle
1445 and such other information as may be required in regulations adopted
1446 pursuant to section 16 of this act, to the commissioner, (2) deposit the
1447 proceeds of such sale, after deducting the amount due to such wrecker

1448 service or owner or keeper and any expenses of the officer who placed
1449 such motor vehicle in storage, if applicable, into an escrow account, and
1450 (3) upon receipt of a claim by the prior owner of such motor vehicle or
1451 such owner's legal representatives not later than one year from the date
1452 of such sale, pay such sale proceeds to the prior owner or such owner's
1453 legal representatives. If such sale proceeds are not claimed within said
1454 period of time, such sale proceeds shall escheat to the state as unclaimed
1455 property and the wrecker service or owner or keeper shall be subject to
1456 the requirements of part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes,
1457 including all obligations of a holder of unclaimed property. Not later
1458 than ten days after filing any report and paying any funds to the
1459 Treasurer as required by part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes,
1460 such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall provide evidence to the
1461 commissioner, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner,
1462 that such report was submitted and funds have escheated.

1463 (h) In no event shall such wrecker service or owner or keeper sell a
1464 motor vehicle that has not been (1) stored for at least thirty days if the
1465 current market value of such motor vehicle does not exceed one
1466 thousand five hundred dollars, or (2) stored for at least sixty days if the
1467 current market value of such motor vehicle exceeds one thousand five
1468 hundred dollars.

1469 Sec. 15. (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of Motor
1470 Vehicles, or the commissioner's designee, shall convene a working
1471 group to study and make recommendations regarding the process
1472 through which a wrecker service or owner or keeper of any garage or
1473 storage facility may sell or dispose of a motor vehicle that remains
1474 unclaimed after such vehicle was subject to nonconsensual towing or
1475 transporting, as defined in section 14-66 of the general statutes, as
1476 amended by this act. Such study shall, at a minimum, (1) consider
1477 alternative methods for selling or disposing such unclaimed motor
1478 vehicles that balance the interests of such wrecker service or owner or
1479 keeper to manage the storage site, garage or storage facility with the
1480 interests of motor vehicle owners and ensure unclaimed motor vehicles
1481 are sold as close to the fair market value as possible; (2) consider issues

1482 concerning a lienholder of a motor vehicle who does not redeem such
1483 vehicle after inspection at the wrecker service's site of business; (3)
1484 consider alternatives to the statutory time frames for disposing of
1485 unclaimed motor vehicles and estimating the fair market value of
1486 unclaimed motor vehicles; (4) evaluate ways to modernize and improve
1487 the process of selling motor vehicles at auction and recommend
1488 amendments to the general statutes or the regulations adopted pursuant
1489 to section 14-65 of the general statutes to effectuate such modernization
1490 and improvements; and (5) consider best practices in other states
1491 regarding the disposal of unclaimed motor vehicles and notice to motor
1492 vehicle owners.

1493 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members: (1) The
1494 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or the commissioner's designee; (2)
1495 two employees of the Department of Motor Vehicles, appointed by the
1496 commissioner; (3) three representatives of an organization in the state
1497 that represents towing and recovery professionals, appointed by the
1498 commissioner; and (4) two consumer advocates, appointed by the
1499 commissioner. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee shall
1500 serve as chairperson of the working group and shall schedule the first
1501 meeting of the council not later than September 1, 2025. The Department
1502 of Motor Vehicles shall serve as administrative staff of the working
1503 group. The working group may consult with any other agencies,
1504 officials or interested parties that the working group deems appropriate
1505 to complete such study.

1506 (c) All initial appointments to the working group shall be made by
1507 August 1, 2025. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority.

1508 (d) On or before February 1, 2026, the working group shall submit a
1509 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing
1510 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
1511 relating to transportation, in accordance with the provisions of section
1512 11-4a of the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the
1513 date that it submits such report or February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

1514 Sec. 16. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) The Commissioner of Motor
1515 Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
1516 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the purposes of section
1517 14-150 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and section 14 of
1518 this act. The regulations shall (1) specify the circumstances under which
1519 title to any motor vehicle abandoned within the limits of any highway
1520 may be transferred to the wrecker service, (2) establish the procedure
1521 whereby such wrecker service may obtain title to such motor vehicle,
1522 and (3) specify the circumstances under which the owner of a
1523 campground may dispose of a motor home or recreational vehicle
1524 abandoned on such owner's property and establishing procedures
1525 governing such disposal.

1526 Sec. 17. Section 29-23a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1527 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1528 (a) The Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
1529 Services and Public Protection [may] shall establish, within its patrol
1530 jurisdiction, a rotational system for summoning [licensed wrecker
1531 operators] wrecker services, as defined in section 14-1, as amended by
1532 this act, for the purpose of towing or transporting motor vehicles which
1533 are disabled, inoperative or wrecked in the event the owners or
1534 operators of such vehicles are incapacitated, unavailable or leave the
1535 procurement of wrecker service to the officer at the scene of an accident
1536 or the location of a disabled vehicle. Any such [licensee] wrecker service
1537 may participate in such system, provided (1) [his operators fulfill] such
1538 wrecker service fulfills certain qualifications, including certification by
1539 the Towing and Recovery Association of America or a certification
1540 program approved by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
1541 Public Protection, and [his] the wrecker service's equipment meets
1542 safety and mechanical standards established by the Commissioner of
1543 Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Commissioner of
1544 Motor Vehicles, and (2) [his] the wrecker service's business is located so
1545 as to provide prompt and efficient service.

1546 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection

1547 shall grant variations or exemptions from, or approve equivalent or
1548 alternate compliance with, the provisions of this section where strict
1549 compliance with such provisions would entail practical difficulty or
1550 unnecessary hardship or is otherwise adjudged unwarranted, provided
1551 any such variation, exemption, approved equivalent or alternate
1552 compliance shall, in the opinion of said commissioner, secure the public
1553 safety.

1554 (c) If the owner or operator of a disabled vehicle is present at the scene
1555 of an accident or the location of the disabled vehicle and is able to
1556 respond, the state police officer shall inquire whether such owner or
1557 operator wishes to choose a wrecker service for the purposes of towing
1558 or transporting the disabled vehicle. If such owner or operator wishes
1559 to do so and such chosen wrecker service is on the rotational system
1560 maintained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, the police officer
1561 shall notify the chosen wrecker service. If such chosen wrecker service
1562 cannot be contacted or is unable or unwilling to respond within the time
1563 frames established pursuant to regulations adopted in accordance with
1564 subsection (d) of this section, the police officer shall summon the next
1565 available wrecker service on the rotational system.

1566 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
1567 Protection shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
1568 chapter 54, concerning the operation of such rotational system and the
1569 removal from the system of wrecker services which fail to comply with
1570 the requirements specified in such regulations or any provision of the
1571 general statutes or a regulation concerning the operation of a wrecker
1572 service or motor vehicle repair [, towing] or storage facility or the
1573 operation of a motor vehicle.

1574 Sec. 18. (NEW) (Effective October 1, 2025) If the owner or operator of a
1575 disabled vehicle is present at the scene of an accident or at the location
1576 of the disabled vehicle and is able to respond, the municipal police
1577 officer shall inquire whether such owner or operator wishes to choose a
1578 wrecker service, as defined in section 14-1 of the general statutes, as
1579 amended by this act, for the purposes of towing or transporting the

1580 disabled vehicle. If such owner or operator wishes to do so and such
1581 chosen wrecker service is on a rotational system maintained by the
1582 municipality, if any, the police officer shall notify the chosen wrecker
1583 service. If such chosen wrecker service cannot be contacted or is unable
1584 or unwilling to respond in a timely manner as determined by the
1585 municipal police officer, the municipal police officer shall (1) summon
1586 the next available wrecker service on the rotational system if maintained
1587 by the municipality, or (2) summon a wrecker service as chosen by such
1588 municipal police officer.

1589 Sec. 19. Subsection (b) of section 14-66c of the general statutes is
1590 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1591 *1, 2025*):

1592 (b) If any motorized personal property is towed or otherwise
1593 removed by a wrecker [licensed under section 14-66] service, at the
1594 direction of an officer attached to an organized police department or an
1595 owner of real property where such personal property has been
1596 abandoned, such property shall be taken to and stored in a suitable
1597 place. [Within] Not later than forty-eight hours [following] after the time
1598 that such property is taken into custody, the [licensee or operator of the]
1599 wrecker service shall give written notice by certified mail to the owner,
1600 if known, (1) that such property has been taken and stored, and (2) of
1601 the location of such property. Such [licensee or operator] wrecker
1602 service shall have a lien upon the same for towing or removal charges
1603 and storage charges. If such owner does not claim such property, or if
1604 the owner of such property is not known, the [licensee or operator of
1605 the] wrecker service may sell or dispose of such property after thirty
1606 days, subject to any provision of the general statutes, or any regulation
1607 adopted thereunder, concerning the sale or disposal of such property.

1608 Sec. 20. Section 14-145c of the general statutes is repealed and the
1609 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1610 Whenever an owner or lessee of private property or a lending
1611 institution, or such owner's, lessee's or institution's agent, improperly

1612 causes a motor vehicle to be towed or removed from such property, [or
1613 rendered immovable on such property,] the owner or lessee of the
1614 property or the lending institution shall be liable to the owner of the
1615 vehicle for the costs of towing or removal and of storage of the vehicle
1616 [or for fees charged for removing a wheel-locking device,] and for
1617 reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, if applicable.

1618 Sec. 21. Section 14-145d of the general statutes is repealed and the
1619 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1620 (a) Any person, firm or corporation that engages in rendering motor
1621 vehicles immovable through the use of wheel-locking or similar devices
1622 and is hired by an [owner or lessee of private property] independent
1623 institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section
1624 10a-173, or a private secondary school to render unauthorized motor
1625 vehicles immovable on such [owner or lessee's] institution or school's
1626 private property shall, five business days prior to taking such action
1627 within a municipality, notify the chief of police of the local police
1628 department of such municipality of such activities. Such notification
1629 shall be in the form and manner directed by the chief of police.

1630 (b) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a
1631 first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined
1632 fifty dollars and, for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not less than
1633 fifty dollars and not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for
1634 not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned.

1635 Sec. 22. Section 14-66b of the general statutes is repealed and the
1636 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1637 (a) Each owner of a wrecker registered pursuant to subsection (c) of
1638 section 14-66, as amended by this act, shall keep and maintain a record
1639 stating the following information: (1) The registration number of each
1640 motor vehicle towed or transported and the registration number of each
1641 wrecker used to tow or transport such motor vehicle; (2) the date and
1642 time the tow commenced and was completed; (3) the location from
1643 which the disabled motor vehicle was towed and the destination of such

1644 tow; (4) the mileage of the wrecker at the commencement and
1645 completion of the tow; (5) the charge for tow service and any other
1646 charges incurred for services related to such tow; (6) the name and
1647 address of the person requesting tow service; (7) the written
1648 authorization form, as described in subsection (b) of section 14-145, as
1649 amended by this act, for each motor vehicle towed or transported; (8)
1650 photographs of the motor vehicle taken pursuant to subsection (d) of
1651 section 14-145, as amended by this act; and [(7)] (9) any other
1652 information the commissioner deems necessary [,] and specified in
1653 regulations adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.
1654 Such records shall be retained at the place of business of the wrecker
1655 service for a period of [two] three years and shall be available for
1656 inspection during regular business hours by any law enforcement
1657 officer or inspector designated by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

1658 (b) Each owner of a wrecker shall also keep and maintain copies of
1659 any written contracts with owners or lessees of property authorizing the
1660 towing or removal of motor vehicles from the property of such owner
1661 or lessee, or with lending institutions repossessing any motor vehicles,
1662 as provided in section 14-145, as amended by this act, and such contracts
1663 shall be available for inspection by motor vehicle owners, agents of the
1664 owners, or lending institutions, upon request.

1665 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may permit any licensed
1666 motor vehicle dealer or repairer who operates a wrecker service to
1667 maintain, in an electronic format prescribed by the commissioner, all
1668 records, photographs, documents and forms required by the
1669 Department of Motor Vehicles. Such records, photographs, documents
1670 and forms shall be produced in written format, upon request by the
1671 department, during the licensee's business hours on the same day of
1672 such request.

1673 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
1674 deemed to have committed an infraction.

1675 Sec. 23. Section 14-51a of the general statutes is repealed and the

1676 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1677 The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose a civil
1678 penalty of not more than [one] five thousand dollars on any person, firm
1679 or corporation who violates any provision of sections 14-54 to 14-67a,
1680 inclusive, or of not more than two thousand dollars on any person, firm
1681 or corporation who violates section 14-52.

1682 Sec. 24. Section 14-64 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1683 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1684 The commissioner may suspend or revoke the license or licenses of
1685 any licensee or impose a civil penalty of not more than [one] five
1686 thousand dollars for each violation on any licensee or both, when, after
1687 notice and hearing, the commissioner finds that the licensee (1) has
1688 violated any provision of any statute or regulation of any state or any
1689 federal statute or regulation pertaining to its business as a licensee or
1690 has failed to comply with the terms of a final decision and order of any
1691 state department or federal agency concerning any such provision; [or]
1692 (2) has failed to maintain such records of transactions concerning the
1693 purchase, sale or repair of motor vehicles or major component parts, as
1694 required by such regulations as shall be adopted by the commissioner,
1695 for a period of two years after such purchase, sale or repairs, provided
1696 the records shall include the vehicle identification number and the name
1697 and address of the person from whom each vehicle or part was
1698 purchased and to whom each vehicle or part was sold, if a sale occurred;
1699 [or] (3) has failed to allow inspection of such records by the
1700 commissioner or the commissioner's representative during normal
1701 business hours, provided written notice stating the purpose of the
1702 inspection is furnished to the licensee, or has failed to allow inspection
1703 of such records by any representative of the Division of State Police
1704 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or
1705 any organized local police department, which inspection may include
1706 examination of the premises to determine the accuracy of such records;
1707 [or] (4) has made a false statement as to the condition, prior ownership
1708 or prior use of any motor vehicle sold, exchanged, transferred, offered

1709 for sale or repaired if the licensee knew or should have known that such
1710 statement was false; [or] (5) is not qualified to conduct the licensed
1711 business, applying the standards of section 14-51 and the applicable
1712 regulations; [or] (6) has violated any provision of sections 42-221 to 42-
1713 226, inclusive; [or] (7) has failed to fully execute or provide the buyer
1714 with (A) an order as described in section 14-62, (B) the properly assigned
1715 certificate of title, or (C) a temporary transfer or new issue of
1716 registration; [or] (8) has failed to deliver a motor vehicle free and clear
1717 of all liens, unless written notification is given to the buyer stating such
1718 motor vehicle shall be purchased subject to a lien; [or] (9) has violated
1719 any provision of sections 14-65f to 14-65j, inclusive, and section 14-65l;
1720 [or] (10) has used registration number plates issued by the
1721 commissioner, in violation of the provisions and standards set forth in
1722 sections 14-59 and 14-60 and the applicable regulations; [or] (11) has
1723 failed to secure or to account for or surrender to the commissioner on
1724 demand official registration plates or any other official materials in its
1725 custody; or (12) has been convicted, or if the licensee is a firm or
1726 corporation, an officer or major stockholder has been convicted, of a
1727 violation of any provision of laws pertaining to the business of a motor
1728 vehicle dealer or repairer including a motor vehicle recycler, or of any
1729 violation involving fraud, larceny or deprivation or misappropriation of
1730 property, in the courts of the United States or of any state, or has failed
1731 to make full disclosure of any such conviction. In addition to, or in lieu
1732 of, the imposition of any other penalties authorized by this section, the
1733 commissioner may order any such licensee to make restitution to any
1734 aggrieved customer.

1735 Sec. 25. Section 14-1 of the general statutes is amended by adding
1736 subdivision (111) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1737 (NEW) (111) "Wrecker service" means any person, firm or
1738 corporation engaged in the business of operating a wrecker for the
1739 purpose of towing or transporting a motor vehicle.

1740 Sec. 26. (*Effective July 1, 2025*) The Police-Ordered Towing Council
1741 shall make recommendations regarding (1) limiting the period of time a

1742 person may file a complaint with the Department of Motor Vehicles
 1743 concerning the provision of nonconsensual towing or transporting,
 1744 recovery or storage of a motor vehicle pursuant to section 14-63 of the
 1745 general statutes, as amended by this act, and (2) ensuring a wrecker
 1746 service may charge for the use of equipment and labor specifically
 1747 requested by a police officer, traffic authority or fire official and
 1748 rendered during the provision of a police-ordered tow, as defined in
 1749 section 8 of this act, including ways to document the towing services
 1750 requested and rendered and to resolve disputes related to such charges.
 1751 On February 1, 2026, the council shall submit such recommendations to
 1752 the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
 1753 cognizance of matters relating to transportation.

1754 Sec. 27. Section 14-145b of the general statutes is repealed. (*Effective*
 1755 *October 1, 2025*)

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-145
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-145a
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-66
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-63
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-66a
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-150
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 15	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-23a
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-66c(b)
Sec. 20	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-145c

Sec. 21	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-145d
Sec. 22	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-66b
Sec. 23	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-51a
Sec. 24	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-64
Sec. 25	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-1(111)
Sec. 26	<i>July 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 27	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	Repealer section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Department of Revenue Services	Various - Potential Revenue Impact	Minimal	Minimal
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal
Judicial Dept. (Probation)	GF - Potential Cost	Minimal	Minimal
Department of Motor Vehicles	TF - Potential Revenue Gain	Minimal	Minimal

Note: Various=Various; GF=General Fund; TF=Transportation Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill makes several changes to motor vehicle towing and related statutes and results in the following fiscal impacts.

Potential Sales Tax Impacts

The bill results in a potential minimal revenue impact to the state by requiring the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to establish a schedule of rates for various towing and related services. The actual rate increase will depend upon the rates adopted by the DMV. Towing services are subject to the state's sales tax.¹

¹ By statute, 0.5 percentage points of the 6.35 percent rate (or 7.87% of collections) is deposited into the Special Transportation Fund and Municipal Revenue Sharing Fund (0.5 percentage points each). The remaining 5.35 percentage points (or 84.25%) is deposited into the General Fund.

Enforcement Penalties and Fines

The bill creates new penalties resulting in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund from fines and a potential cost to the Judicial Department for probation. On average, the marginal cost to the state for supervision in the community is less than \$600² each year for adults.

The bill also increases civil penalties that DMV may impose for violating the motor vehicle dealer and repairer laws from up to \$1,000 to up to \$5,000, resulting in potential revenue gain to the extent that fines are imposed.

Other sections of the bill are not anticipated to have a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

House Amendment “A” eliminates the original bill and its associated fiscal impact, and results in the impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to any rate adjustments, the actual number of offenses, or as otherwise described.

² Probation marginal cost is based on services provided by private providers and only includes costs that increase with each additional participant. This does not include a cost for additional supervision by a probation officer unless a new offense is anticipated to result in enough additional offenders to require additional probation officers.

OLR Bill Analysis**sHB 7162 (as amended by House "A")******AN ACT REFORMING THE MOTOR VEHICLE TOWING STATUTES.***

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[SUMMARY](#)[§§ 1, 2 & 22 — PRIVATE PROPERTY TOWING](#)

Modifies laws on towing from private property, including requiring (1) a written authorization form for each tow, (2) 14 days' notice before towing a vehicle solely for an expired registration, (3) 72 hours' notice for towing a vehicle solely for an expired residential parking facility permit, and (4) photo documentation of a vehicle before towing it; bans booting on private property

[§§ 1 & 3 — PARKING FACILITY SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS](#)

Extends towing signage requirements to all private parking facilities; modifies the signs' required contents and locations; requires parking facilities to post additional parking rules that may cause a vehicle to be towed

[§ 4 — MUNICIPAL TOWING REGULATION](#)

Explicitly allows municipalities to regulate motor vehicle towing, transporting, and storage by towing companies (except for consensual towing and repossession)

[§ 5 — TOWING BILL OF RIGHTS](#)

Requires (1) DMV to develop a towing bill of rights, in consultation with the attorney general, and post it online and (2) towing companies to post the bill of rights and make copies available for distribution at their business as well as post it on their websites

[§§ 6-8 — TOWING RATES](#)

Requires DMV to establish separate rate schedules for private property trespass towing and police-ordered towing instead of one schedule for all nonconsensual towing; modifies the process for

setting rates; requires the rates to be reconsidered and potentially amended every three years

§ 9 — POLICE-ORDERED TOWING COUNCIL

Establishes the Police-Ordered Towing Council and charges it with (1) advising the DMV commissioner on policies affecting police-ordered towing and (2) developing a proposed rate schedule for police-ordered towing, among other things

§ 10 — TEMPORARY TOWING RATES

Starting July 1, 2025, establishes temporary rates for towing medium-duty, heavy-duty, and oversize/overweight vehicles and for the use of a rotator; allows towing companies to charge for equipment in their exceptional services charges

§ 11 — DEALER AND REPAIRER COMPLAINT PROCESS

Codifies provisions that are substantially similar to existing DMV regulations on investigations of consumer complaints against dealers and repairers; explicitly broadens the scope of violations the commissioner may investigate to include violations of towing laws

§§ 12 & 27 — STORAGE AND RELEASE OF VEHICLES SUBJECT TO NONCONSENSUAL TOWING

Modifies laws on releasing towed vehicles, including by requiring towing companies to (1) respond to requests to redeem vehicles or personal property within four hours; (2) allow redemption of all personal property in a vehicle; (3) take credit and debit cards as payment; and (4) accept additional proof of ownership documents

§§ 13 & 14 — VEHICLE DISPOSAL PROCESS

Modifies the vehicle disposal process, including by (1) extending the minimum time that garage owners must hold a vehicle before selling it to 30 or 60 days, depending on vehicle value; (2) requiring towers to send an additional notice of proposed sale to the vehicle owner and lienholder after receiving DMV approval; and (3) specifying a process by which vehicle proceeds escheat to the state

§ 15 — WORKING GROUP ON TOWED VEHICLE DISPOSAL PROCESS

Requires DMV to create a working group to study ways to improve the process for selling or disposing of unclaimed towed vehicles

§§ 16, 19-21, 25 & 27—MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes numerous minor, technical, and conforming changes throughout

§§ 17 & 18 — STATE POLICE TOW ROTATION LIST AND VEHICLE OWNER'S CHOICE OF TOWING COMPANY

Requires, rather than allows, the State Police to establish a rotational system for summoning tow trucks within its patrol jurisdiction; requires police officers to give owners or operators of disabled vehicles the opportunity to choose a towing company

§ 22 — RECORD RETENTION

Increases towing companies' minimum record retention requirement from two to three years

§§ 23 & 24 — CIVIL PENALTIES

Increases the maximum civil penalty DMV may impose for violations of dealer and repairer (including towing) laws from \$1,000 to \$5,000

§ 26 — POLICE-ORDERED TOWING COUNCIL STUDY

Requires the Police-Ordered Towing Council to make recommendations about (1) the timeframe for filing complaints about nonconsensual towing and (2) charging for and resolving disputes regarding towing services provided upon request of police, fire officials or traffic authorities

SUMMARY

This bill makes numerous changes to laws on nonconsensual towing and the abandoned vehicle disposal process. Some of the bill's changes affect only towing authorized by a property owner or lessee without the vehicle owner's consent (private property tows), but some apply more broadly to all "nonconsensual towing," which is towing that occurs without the vehicle owner or operator's consent whether ordered by private property owners or lessees, police officers, or traffic authorities. A section-by-section analysis of these provisions follows.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, unless otherwise noted below.

*House Amendment "A," among other things, (1) removes the underlying bill's provisions on towing from residential parking facilities, including a 24 hour notice requirement; (2) allows towing companies to act as a property owner's agent to authorize tows under certain conditions, which the underlying bill prohibited; (3) explicitly

authorizes municipalities to adopt ordinances on nonconsensual towing and parking facility management; (4) modifies the underlying bill's towing rate provisions and adds provisions setting temporary rates and establishing a Police-Ordered Towing Council; (5) creates a working group to study the vehicle disposal process; and (6) adds provisions on disabled vehicle owners having a choice of tower.

§§ 1, 2 & 22 — PRIVATE PROPERTY TOWING

Modifies laws on towing from private property, including requiring (1) a written authorization form for each tow, (2) 14 days' notice before towing a vehicle solely for an expired registration, (3) 72 hours' notice for towing a vehicle solely for an expired residential parking facility permit, and (4) photo documentation of a vehicle before towing it; bans booting on private property

Overview

By law, private property owners and lessees may use a towing company to have unauthorized vehicles towed from their property without the vehicle owner's or operator's consent. The bill modifies the conditions under which they may do so and adds new conditions and requirements.

The bill specifies that these provisions on towing from private property do not apply to (1) towing performed with the owner or operator's consent (i.e. consensual tows) or (2) motor vehicle repossession (except for the requirement to notify police, which applies under existing law). As under current law, they also do not apply to authorized emergency vehicles.

Written Authorization

Current law generally prohibits a vehicle from being towed from private property unless the property's owner or lessee, or their agent, expressly authorizes the tow. The bill instead requires property owners or lessees (or their agents) to sign, in writing or electronically, a written authorization form for each tow from their property.

Towing Companies as Agents. The bill allows towing companies to act as property owners' or lessees' agents only if they execute a contract authorizing them to do so. Under such a contract, a towing

company can sign the form, on the property owner's or lessee's behalf, for vehicles that are:

1. illegally parked in an accessible parking space for people with disabilities,
2. in an area reserved for authorized emergency vehicles,
3. within 10 feet of a fire hydrant,
4. blocking access to a building or a parking space on the property,
5. in or obstructing a vehicular traffic aisle, or
6. leaking fluid that presents a hazard or threat.

The bill also allows these contracts to permit the towing company to tow for violations of specific parking rules the owner or lessee establishes, as long as the parking rules are (1) listed in the contract and (2) intended to promote the convenience, safety, or welfare of vehicle operators on the property, preserve the property from abuse, or fairly distribute parking resources.

Form Contents. Under the bill, property owners or lessees, or their agents, must provide the written authorization on a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)-prescribed form and certify that its contents are true, to the best of their belief, by signing it under penalty of false statement. The form must include the following information:

1. the vehicle's make, model, vehicle identification number, and license plate number;
2. the reason for the tow;
3. the authorizing owner's, lessee's, or agent's name, job title, residential or business address, and phone number;
4. the date and time the authorization was given;

5. confirmation that any required signage was installed; and
6. if the towing company is acting as a property owner or lessee's agent to tow under an established parking rule, a copy of the portion of the contract listing the established parking rules for which a towing company is authorized to tow.

The bill also requires towing companies to retain these written authorization forms for at least three years after the tow.

Vehicles With Expired Registrations

The bill generally requires 14 days' notice before parking facility (including residential parking facility) owners and lessees, or their agents, may authorize towing a vehicle from the parking facility solely because the vehicle has an expired registration. The notice must be placed in a clearly visible spot on the vehicle's driver-side windshield and include the following information:

1. statements that the vehicle (a) has an expired registration and (b) will be towed from the parking facility without the owner's consent if it remains in or returns to the facility and still has an expired registration and
2. the time and date the (a) notice was affixed to the vehicle and (b) vehicle may be towed, which must be at least 14 days after the notice is placed on the vehicle.

Expired Parking Permits

The bill requires 72 hours' notice before residential parking facility owners and lessees, or their agents, may authorize the towing of a vehicle at the parking facility solely due to an expired parking permit. The notice must be placed in a clearly visible spot on the vehicle's driver-side windshield and include the following information:

1. statements that the (a) vehicle's parking permit has expired and (b) vehicle will be towed from the complex without the owner's consent if it remains in or returns to the facility without a valid

permit and

2. the time the (a) notice was affixed to the vehicle and (b) vehicle may be towed if it does not have a valid permit, which must be at least 72 hours after the notice is placed on the vehicle.

This provision does not apply to vehicles with temporary or visitor parking permits, as long as the permit clearly states when it expires.

Photo Documentation by Towing Companies

Before connecting a vehicle to a tow truck without the vehicle owner's or operator's consent, the bill requires the towing company to take at least two photos of the vehicle with a high enough resolution to clearly show the reason for the tow and the vehicle's condition. The bill requires towing companies to retain these photos for at least three years after the tow.

Rebuttable Presumptions of Vehicle Damage or Improper Towing

Under the bill, vehicle owners or operators (or their agents), lienholders, and insurance companies acting on the owner's behalf may ask for copies of the (1) written authorization form and (2) photos the bill requires towing companies to take. Towing companies must provide these copies at no cost.

The bill creates several rebuttable presumptions if a towing company fails to produce the written authorization or photos required. Specifically, it is a rebuttable presumption that the towing company:

1. did not have authorization from a property owner or lessee, if the towing company fails to produce a copy of the written authorization form;
2. damaged the vehicle, if the (a) towing company fails to produce the required photos documenting the vehicle's condition and (b) vehicle is damaged; and
3. towed the vehicle in violation of the laws on towing from private

property, if the towing company does not produce a photo documenting the reason for the tow.

Release for Incomplete Tow and Drop Fee

Under the bill, if a motor vehicle owner or operator returns before the vehicle is connected to the tow truck, a towing company must stop preparing the vehicle for towing and tell the person that he or she may move the vehicle or resolve the reason for the tow to avoid the tow and towing fee.

If a motor vehicle owner or operator returns after the vehicle is connected to the tow truck but before it is taken from the property, a towing company must stop and inform the person that the vehicle may be released upon payment of a drop fee, established by DMV (see § 7 below). The towing company must take payment in cash or by credit or debit card and immediately release the vehicle and provide a receipt upon payment. If the vehicle owner or operator does not pay the fee, the towing company can proceed with the tow but must give the owner or operator a copy of the towing consumer bill of rights (see § 5 below).

Notification to Police

By law, a towing company must notify the local police department within two hours after towing a vehicle from private property or for a repossession. The bill specifies that the company may alternatively inform the resident state trooper serving the municipality and makes conforming changes to provisions requiring the police, within 48 hours of receiving this notice, to take certain steps to determine whether the vehicle was reported stolen.

The bill also requires towing companies to tell the local police department or resident state trooper (1) when and where the tow occurred and (2) where the vehicle is stored.

Booting on Private Property

Existing law generally prohibits private property owners and lessees from issuing parking citations to or imposing monetary sanctions on

vehicles parked on their property, but it allows them to render unauthorized vehicles immovable with a wheel locking device (i.e. “boot”). The bill instead bans private property owners from booting vehicles on their property. As is the case under current law for the parking ticket prohibition, private higher education institutions or secondary schools are exempt from the ban on booting.

Penalty

As under existing law, a first offense of the above private property towing provisions is an infraction (see *Background — Infractions*) with a \$50 fine, and second or subsequent offenses are misdemeanors, subject to a fine of \$50 to \$100, up to 30 days in prison, or both.

Background — Infractions

Infractions are punishable by fines, usually set by Superior Court judges, of between \$35 and \$90, plus a \$20 or \$35 surcharge and an additional fee based on the fine’s amount. There may also be other applicable charges depending on the type of infraction. For example, certain motor vehicle infractions trigger a Special Transportation Fund surcharge of 50% of the fine. An infraction is not a crime and violators can generally pay the fine by mail without making a court appearance.

§§ 1 & 3 — PARKING FACILITY SIGNAGE REQUIREMENTS

Extends towing signage requirements to all private parking facilities; modifies the signs’ required contents and locations; requires parking facilities to post additional parking rules that may cause a vehicle to be towed

General Requirements

Current law requires conspicuous signs warning that unauthorized vehicles may be towed to be posted on private commercial properties before property owners or lessees, or their agents, can have unauthorized vehicles towed from there.

The bill extends the warning sign requirement to all private parking facilities, rather than just private commercial property. “Parking facilities” are lots, garages, parking terminals, and other parking structures or accommodations located on private property, including

those located at multifamily dwellings with five or more units, condominiums, or other common interest communities (“residential parking facilities”).

It also (1) requires that signs be in place for at least 48 hours before a vehicle may be towed from the property and (2) specifically requires towing companies to verify that signage meeting the bill’s requirement, as described below, is present before they tow a vehicle from a parking facility on a property owner’s or lessee’s behalf.

Sign Contents and Specifications

Under existing law, these signs must state that unauthorized vehicles may be towed and indicate any costs that might be charged. The bill additionally requires signs to (1) bear the international towing symbol, (2) state that towing is at the owner’s expense, and (3) be at least 12 inches long and 18 inches wide. The bill eliminates current law’s requirement that the signs indicate where a towed vehicle will be stored and how it can be redeemed and instead requires the signs to include (1) the name, address, and phone number for the towing company that performs the towing or (2) a phone number that a motor vehicle owner or operator can call to locate their vehicle and get information on how to redeem it.

Sign Locations

Generally, the bill requires these warning signs to be placed at the parking facility’s entrances. But in cases where certain areas are restricted in an otherwise unrestricted parking facility, the signs must be placed either (1) on the right or left side of each entrance to a designated area or group of restricted parking spaces or (2) at the end of each restricted parking space so that the sign faces the front of the vehicle in the space. If the property owner or lessee, or their agent, imposes additional restrictions on individually signed spots, the signs must indicate that the space is reserved for a specific unit number, person, or type of person.

Parking Rules

In addition to the general parking facility signage requirements, the bill requires parking facility owners or lessees, or their agents, to post conspicuous signs listing the violations that would cause a vehicle to be towed from the parking facility. Any rules must be to promote the convenience, safety, or welfare of drivers on the facility, preserve the facility from abuse, or fairly distribute parking resources.

Exceptions

Current law makes exceptions to the signage requirements, allowing property owners or lessees to have vehicles towed without installing signage if they are:

1. illegally parked in an accessible parking space for people with disabilities,
2. in an area reserved for authorized emergency vehicles,
3. within 10 feet of a fire hydrant, or
4. blocking building access or entry or exit from the property.

The bill adds additional exceptions for vehicles (1) blocking access to reserved parking areas, (2) obstructing vehicular traffic aisles, (3) leaking fluid that presents a hazard or a threat, or (4) parked in an area not designated for parking.

Current law also allows property owners or lessees to have an unauthorized vehicle towed without having installed signage if the vehicle is left for more than 48 hours. The bill eliminates this exception and replaces it with one that allows towing without signage after 48 hours' notice. Under the bill, parking facility owners or lessees, or their agents, may place a written notice on a vehicle stating (1) that the vehicle will be towed if it remains parked at the facility; (2) the time the notice was placed; and (3) the time the vehicle will be towed, which must be at least 48 hours after the notice is placed. The notice must be placed in a conspicuous location on the windshield near the driver's side. This exception does not apply to residential parking facilities (see below).

Penalties

As under existing law, a first offense of the signage requirement is an infraction with a \$50 fine, and second or subsequent offenses are misdemeanors, subject to a fine of \$50 to \$100, up to 30 days in prison, or both.

§ 4 — MUNICIPAL TOWING REGULATION

Explicitly allows municipalities to regulate motor vehicle towing, transporting, and storage by towing companies (except for consensual towing and repossession)

The bill explicitly allows municipalities to regulate motor vehicle towing, transporting, and storage provided by towing companies (other than nonconsensual towing or repossession) through ordinances enacted by their legislative bodies. Ordinances adopted under the bill may regulate nonconsensual towing and parking facility and residential parking facility management, as long as they are not inconsistent with state law. The bill specifies that if a vehicle is towed from one municipality to another, and both have towing ordinances, the ordinance for the municipality the vehicle was towed from applies.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§ 5 — TOWING BILL OF RIGHTS

Requires (1) DMV to develop a towing bill of rights, in consultation with the attorney general, and post it online and (2) towing companies to post the bill of rights and make copies available for distribution at their business as well as post it on their websites

By September 1, 2025, the bill requires the DMV commissioner, in consultation with the attorney general, to develop a consumer bill of rights regarding towing (“towing bill of rights”) in both English and Spanish and make it available for public dissemination.

The towing bill of rights must include at least the following:

1. a summary of a vehicle owner’s or operator’s rights and responsibilities if his or her vehicle is towed,
2. when a towing company must be available to redeem vehicles or personal property,

3. the towing and storage rates and other fees that towing companies may charge,
4. a description of the records and photos a vehicle owner or operator may request from the towing company,
5. a warning that towing companies may sell unclaimed towed vehicles under the law's vehicle disposal process (see below), and
6. information on filing a consumer complaint with DMV.

Starting October 1, 2025, the bill requires DMV and the attorney general to include the towing bill of rights on their respective websites.

Under the bill, starting October 1, 2025, towing companies must post the towing bill of rights at their places of business and make copies available to distribute to customers who visit there. It also requires towing companies that maintain a website to post the bill of rights on the website starting on the same date.

The bill requires the commissioner, at a minimum, to revise the bill of rights each time he publishes a new rate schedule for private property trespass towing or police-ordered towing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 6-8 —TOWING RATES

Requires DMV to establish separate rate schedules for private property trespass towing and police-ordered towing instead of one schedule for all nonconsensual towing; modifies the process for setting rates; requires the rates to be reconsidered and potentially amended every three years

Overview

Under current law, the DMV commissioner must establish a schedule of uniform rates and charges ("rate schedule") for nonconsensual towing and transporting and for motor vehicle storage, and those rates must be just and reasonable. The law does not specify the structure of the rate schedule, and the commissioner has discretion over which rates and charges to include. In practice, the commissioner sets (1) a flat tow

charge for light-duty vehicles, plus a mileage charge for transporting; (2) an hourly rate for medium- and heavy-duty towing, which includes any transporting; and (3) a schedule of storage charges, with rates that vary based on vehicle length and the type of facility (e.g., whether it is inside or outside). The towing rates apply to all kinds of nonconsensual towing, including towing performed at accident scenes.

The bill instead requires the commissioner to establish two rate schedules, one for private property trespass towing (i.e. nonconsensual tows from private property) and one for police-ordered towing. It also creates new processes for setting the schedules and requires DMV to adopt rates for vehicle storage, a drop fee, and an after-hours redemption fee.

Private Property Trespass Towing Rates, Storage Rates, and Drop and After-hours Redemption Fees (§ 7)

Rates and Fees. The bill requires the commissioner to establish the following rates and fees, which must take effect January 1, 2026:

1. flat rates for private property trespass towing of (a) light-duty vehicles, which have a gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) of less than 10,000 pounds; (b) medium-duty vehicles, which have a GVWR of 10,000 pounds to 26,000 pounds; and (c) heavy-duty vehicles, which have a GVWR greater than 26,000 pounds;
2. a fee for additional labor;
3. a drop fee;
4. a mileage fee;
5. storage rates; and
6. an after-hours redemption fee.

Under the bill, the flat towing rates include the first two miles of transportation the towing company performs. The bill prohibits towing companies from charging a mileage fee for more than 13 additional

miles for a private property trespass tow. The bill also specifies that the storage rates and after-hours redemption fee apply to all nonconsensual towing, not just private property trespass towing.

Once the rate schedule is published, the bill prohibits towing companies from charging more than the rates listed in the schedule or for services not included in the schedule.

Factors Considered in Rates. Under current law, the commissioner has discretion over which factors he considers and incorporates into the rates and charges he sets. The law specifies that he may consider, but is not limited to, the following factors when setting and amending the rates and charges: (1) the consumer price index, (2) rates set by other jurisdictions, (3) charges for towing and transportation services provided through automobile clubs, and (4) rates published in standard service manuals. DMV regulations also allow the commissioner to consider the towing and recovery industry's operating costs but do not list specific costs that may be considered (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-63-36a). In a 2021 decision, the Appellate Court affirmed the commissioner's discretion to weigh these factors as he sees fit (see *Background — DMV Commissioner's Discretion in Rate Setting: Towing & Recovery Professionals of Connecticut, Inc. v. Department of Motor Vehicles*).

The bill limits this discretion by (1) requiring that the rate schedule reflect the reasonable operating costs of towing companies that perform nonconsensual towing and storage; (2) requiring, rather than allowing, the commissioner to consider specified factors when setting the rates; and (3) modifying those factors.

Under the bill, the commissioner must at least consider (1) the transportation producer price index; (2) rates set by other jurisdictions; and (3) the cost of fuel, wreckers, motor vehicle parts, equipment, personnel, workers' compensation insurance, unemployment compensation, and insurance premiums.

Rate Reconsideration and Adjustment. Under current law, the commissioner must reconsider the rate schedule upon a licensed towing

company's petition (but no more often than once every two years) and amend it if he determines, after considering the factors specified in law, that the rates are no longer just and reasonable. The bill instead requires the commissioner to reconsider the schedule every three years. The commissioner may amend the rate schedule if he determines that the rates are no longer just and reasonable or do not reflect the reasonable operating costs for towing companies that perform nonconsensual towing and storage. If he amends the schedule, it must take effect the on the January 1 following the public hearing (see below).

Public Hearing. As under existing law, DMV must hold a public hearing to get additional information to establish the schedule. The bill requires DMV to hold a public hearing for the initial rate schedule by November 1, 2025. The hearing for the first rate reconsideration must be held between July 1, 2028, and October 1, 2028, and then every three years after that.

Current Rates. The bill specifies that the currently effective rates remain in effect through December 31, 2025, and towing companies cannot charge more than these rates during that time.

Police-Ordered Towing Rates (§ 8)

The bill also requires the commissioner to establish a rate schedule for police-ordered towing, which must include the following:

1. base hourly rates for police-ordered towing of (a) light-duty vehicles, (b) medium-duty vehicles, (c) heavy-duty vehicles, and (d) oversize or overweight motor vehicles;
2. an hourly rate for winching vehicles located off the highway;
3. hourly rates for each type of specialized equipment used for towing but not included in the base rate;
4. hourly rates for labor not included in the base rate; and
5. a charge for administrative services.

The bill requires DMV to specify the services and equipment included in the base rate. Once the rate schedule is published, it prohibits towing companies from charging more than the rates listed in the schedule or for services not included in the schedule.

Factors Considered in Rates. As is the case for the private property trespass towing schedule, the rates must be just and reasonable and reflect towing companies' operating costs. The bill requires the commissioner, when setting rates, to at least consider (1) the transportation producer price index; (2) rates set by other jurisdictions; (3) rates for consensual towing; (4) the cost of equipment required to be on the State Police tow rotation list; and (5) workers' compensation insurance, unemployment compensation, and insurance premium costs.

Process. Under the bill, the Police-Ordered Towing Council (see below) establishes an initial proposed schedule and submits it to the commissioner. Within 90 days after receiving the proposed schedule, DMV must hold a public hearing and establish and publish a rate schedule. If the commissioner amends the proposed schedule, he must provide a written statement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2025, except that the provisions on private property trespass towing rates are effective July 1, 2025.

Background — DMV Commissioner's Discretion in Rate Setting: Towing & Recovery Professionals of Connecticut, Inc. v. Department of Motor Vehicles

In 2018, DMV increased base towing rates and storage fees, generally reflecting the rise in the consumer price index (CPI) since the last increase in 2007. In determining the increases, the hearing officer considered evidence from the towing industry on vehicle costs, real estate taxes, and workers' compensation, among other things, but decided to give more weight to factors listed in statute (namely, the CPI).

In response to DMV's 2018 decision, the Towing & Recovery Professionals of Connecticut filed an administrative appeal challenging

the commissioner's consideration of statutory and regulatory factors and its weighing of evidence. When the appeal reached the Appellate Court, it held that, given the inclusion of the word "may," both the statute and regulation give the commissioner discretion to consider and weigh the factors that he sees fit (*Towing and Recovery Professionals of Connecticut, Inc. v. Department of Motor Vehicles*, 205 Conn. App. 368 (2021), *cert. denied*, 338 Conn. 910 (2021)).

Background — Related Bill

sSB 1449 (File 545), favorably reported by the Transportation Committee, creates a new process for setting medium- and heavy-duty towing rates.

§ 9 — POLICE-ORDERED TOWING COUNCIL

Establishes the Police-Ordered Towing Council and charges it with (1) advising the DMV commissioner on policies affecting police-ordered towing and (2) developing a proposed rate schedule for police-ordered towing, among other things

The bill establishes the Police-Ordered Towing Council and charges it with (1) advising the DMV commissioner on policies affecting police-ordered towing and (2) developing a proposed rate schedule for police-ordered towing. It places the council within DMV for administrative purposes only.

Membership

Under the bill, the council consists of the transportation, emergency services and public protection, energy and environmental protection, and insurance commissioners (or their designees), plus the following members appointed by the governor:

1. three representatives of an in-state organization representing towing and recovery professionals,
2. two representatives of an in-state organization representing the commercial trucking industry,
3. one representative from the insurance industry,

4. one representative of an association of police chiefs in the state, and
5. one representative of an association of fire chiefs in the state.

The bill requires the governor to make appointments by August 1, 2025, and fill any vacancies within 30 days after they occur. Each appointed member serves for a two-year term and may serve until a successor is appointed. The governor must appoint the chairperson, and the chairperson must convene the first meeting by September 15, 2025.

Proposed Rate Schedule and Other Duties

The bill requires the council, by January 1, 2026, to submit to the DMV commissioner a proposed police-ordered towing rate schedule. In developing the schedule, the council must consider the factors the bill requires the DMV commissioner to consider when setting a rate schedule, and it must submit any documentation to support the proposed rate schedule.

Between June 1, 2028, and September 1, 2028, and every three years after that, the council must review the rate schedule, consider adjustments, and submit any recommended adjustments to DMV.

Under the bill, the council must also:

1. recommend specific procedures for determining whether a service performed by a towing company providing medium- and heavy-duty towing was required;
2. request information from other parties to assist with its work and, in its discretion, hold public hearings to get information; and
3. make additional recommendations to DMV as it deems appropriate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

Background — Related Bill

sSB 1449 (File 545), favorably reported by the Transportation Committee, establishes a similar council for medium- and heavy-duty towing.

§ 10 — TEMPORARY TOWING RATES

Starting July 1, 2025, establishes temporary rates for towing medium-duty, heavy-duty, and oversize/overweight vehicles and for the use of a rotator; allows towing companies to charge for equipment in their exceptional services charges

Hourly Rates

Starting July 1, 2025, the bill overrides the current DMV-established rate schedule and sets temporary rates that remain in effect until the DMV commissioner adopts a new police-ordered towing rate schedule under the process the bill establishes.

Under the bill, the following maximum hourly rates may be charged for nonconsensual towing (including recovery), calculated according to current DMV regulations:

1. for medium-duty vehicles, \$400 per hour (currently, the rate is \$240);
2. for heavy-duty vehicles, \$700 per hour (currently, the rate is \$390);
3. for oversize or overweight vehicles, \$1,500; and
4. for the use of a rotator, \$1,275 per hour (the current rate schedule does not have a rate for a rotator).

The bill defines a rotator as a wrecker (tow truck) that (1) consists of a rotating superstructure, adjusting boom, operating machinery, and one or more operator's stations mounted on a frame attached to a truck chassis and (2) has the ability to lift, lower, and swing loads.

Services Included in Hourly Rate. The bill specifies that the hourly rate covers:

1. services reasonably necessary to restore the towing site to its

original condition, or to restore it as directed by a police officer or traffic authority or local fire official, if they take less than 15 minutes;

2. time the towing company spent at the site waiting to perform any portion of the nonconsensual towing due to an order of a police officer or traffic authority, if it takes less than 15 minutes;
3. hand tools, wrenches, sockets, and timbers, used in the towing or recovery of a motor vehicle;
4. air fittings and hoses used in towing or recovery under 100 feet;
5. disconnecting batteries;
6. pry bars, reflectors, wheel chocks or scotch blocks, up to two snatch blocks, cargo retraining straps, and chain and binders used in conjunction with wrecker cables; and
7. preparing a motor vehicle for towing.

Current regulations list similar services included in “tow charges” (Conn. Agency Regs., § 14-63-36b).

Exceptional Services

In addition to base hourly rates, current DMV regulations allow towing companies to charge for “exceptional services,” which is using special equipment, such as cutting torches, air compressors, and other equipment not generally required for nonconsensual towing at accident scenes. DMV regulations require that these charges be itemized in accordance with the hourly charge for labor posted as required under regulations; the Appellate Court recently held that these regulations do not allow exceptional service charges to include charges for equipment (see *Background — Exceptional Services: Modzelewski’s Towing & Storage, Inc. v. DMV Commissioner*).

Under the bill, the charge for exceptional services may include the hourly charge for labor and the use of equipment to perform the

services, as long as the services are itemized, reasonable, and necessary to perform nonconsensual towing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

Background — Exceptional Services: Modzelewski’s Towing & Storage, Inc. v. DMV Commissioner

In 2024, the Appellate Court considered a DMV hearing officer’s decision to impose civil penalties on a towing company and order restitution for certain violations, including improperly charging for exceptional services by including an equipment charge. The court held that the regulations only permit charging for exceptional services according to the approved hourly labor charge, and there is no support in existing DMV regulations for a towing company to include an equipment charge in its rate for exceptional services. In September 2024, the Connecticut Supreme Court granted the towing company’s petition for certification (*Modzelewski’s Towing & Storage, Inc. v. DMV Commissioner*, 225 Conn. App. 386 (2024), *cert. granted*, 349 Conn. 921 (2024)).

Background — Related Bill

sSB 1449 (File 545), favorably reported by the Transportation Committee, also sets temporary rates for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.

§ 11 — DEALER AND REPAIRER COMPLAINT PROCESS

Codifies provisions that are substantially similar to existing DMV regulations on investigations of consumer complaints against dealers and repairers; explicitly broadens the scope of violations the commissioner may investigate to include violations of towing laws

The bill codifies provisions that are substantially similar to existing DMV regulations on investigations of consumer complaints against dealers and repairers (see Conn. Agencies Regs., §§ 14-63-45b & -45c) (by law, towing companies must have a dealers’ or repairers’ license). It also broadens the scope of violations the commissioner may investigate to explicitly include violations of towing laws.

Among other things, the bill codifies provisions in regulations that:

1. specify what must be included in a complaint, including a statement of facts accompanied by supporting evidence;
2. require DMV to notify the customer and the dealer or repairer, within 14 days after receiving the complaint, that the complaint was received, what matters it covers, and that it will be investigated; and
3. give DMV several options to resolve substantiated complaints, including mediation or an administrative hearing under the Uniform Administrative Procedure Act.

If DMV finds a towing company violated the laws, the bill also specifically allows the DMV commissioner to recommend that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection remove a medium- or heavy-duty towing company from the State Police tow rotational system in addition to any enforcement action currently authorized (e.g., civil penalties and restitution orders).

The bill also (1) eliminates a statutory provision that requires the DMV commissioner to retain unresolved complaints on a dealer or repairer's records until the dealer or repairer provides evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the claim is resolved or no longer pending and (2) broadly allows the commissioner to adopt regulations to effectuate these provisions.

Background — Related Bill

sSB 1449 (File 545), favorably reported by the Transportation Committee, contains substantially similar provisions codifying DMV complaint regulations.

§§ 12 & 27 — STORAGE AND RELEASE OF VEHICLES SUBJECT TO NONCONSENSUAL TOWING

Modifies laws on releasing towed vehicles, including by requiring towing companies to (1) respond to requests to redeem vehicles or personal property within four hours; (2) allow

redemption of all personal property in a vehicle; (3) take credit and debit cards as payment; and (4) accept additional proof of ownership documents

Availability for Vehicle Redemption

As under current law, towing companies must store vehicles they tow from private property at their business site in a secured lot, and the site must be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The bill explicitly applies this requirement to all towing companies performing nonconsensual towing, not just those towing vehicles from private property.

Current law also requires that towing companies be reasonably available on weekends and holidays for vehicle redemption purposes. Under current regulations, a towing company must allow a vehicle owner, lending institution, or other authorized person to redeem a vehicle at any time if the towing company (1) performs or contracts to perform towing for compensation outside of its hours of operation or (2) advertises to the public it is available to tow outside of its hours of operation (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-63-37a). The towing company must release the vehicle within a reasonable amount of time after someone makes a request for release, and a person is deemed to have made a request to release his or her vehicle by appearing at the business in person or by calling the towing company at its advertised phone number.

The bill instead generally requires towing companies to allow vehicle owners or others they authorize to redeem their vehicle or personal property within four hours after making a request, if the request is not made during the towing companies' hours of operation. Towing companies must maintain an advertised phone number to take requests 24 hours a day to redeem vehicles and remove personal property. But the bill specifies that lending institutions or people they authorize may only redeem vehicles during towing companies' operating hours.

The bill also codifies the provision in regulations allowing towing companies to charge a fee for releasing a vehicle outside its hours of operation. Under the bill, DMV must set a maximum amount for this fee

(see § 7, above).

The bill also specifically prohibits charging a storage fee for any day that a towing company does not make the vehicle available for redemption.

Access to Personal Property

By law and under the bill, towing companies have a lien on vehicles they tow for their towing and storage charges. The bill specifies that towing companies do not have a lien on personal property stored in a vehicle subject to nonconsensual towing, and they must permit vehicle owners, or people the owners authorize, to access the vehicle and remove personal property during the towing company's hours of operation or, outside of these hours, within four hours after making a request to remove property. Current DMV regulations only require towing companies to allow retrieval of property essential to someone's health or welfare (Conn. Agencies Regs., § 14-63-37b).

Proof of Ownership

Under existing law, towing companies must release a vehicle towed from private property to its owner or another authorized person upon demand if the owner or other authorized person (1) presents proof of registration and (2) pays the towing and storage costs.

The bill expands the documentation that an owner or authorized person (including, under the bill, a lienholder) may provide to include a certificate of title, a bill of sale, a lease for the motor vehicle, or other reasonable proof of ownership. The towing company must release the vehicle even if the address on the documentation is different from the owner's or authorized person's current address.

Accepted Forms of Payment

The bill requires towing companies to (1) accept payment for nonconsensual towing and storage charges by cash, credit card, and debit card and (2) keep sufficient cash at their offices to give change to a vehicle owner, or another authorized person, at the time of payment.

If payment is made by a credit or debit card, the card holder must appear at the towing company's office and sign a receipt.

Right to Inspect and Itemized Receipt

By law, vehicle owners and other authorized individuals have the right to inspect a vehicle towed from private property before redeeming the vehicle. Towing companies must give an itemized receipt to the person who paid the towing and storage costs and cannot require an owner or authorized person to sign a general release of liability. The bill extends these provisions to all nonconsensual tows.

Penalties

Under the bill, a first offense of these requirements is an infraction with a \$50 fine, and second or subsequent offenses are a class D misdemeanor, subject to a fine of up to \$250, up to 30 days in prison, or both.

§§ 13 & 14 — VEHICLE DISPOSAL PROCESS

Modifies the vehicle disposal process, including by (1) extending the minimum time that garage owners must hold a vehicle before selling it to 30 or 60 days, depending on vehicle value; (2) requiring towers to send an additional notice of proposed sale to the vehicle owner and lienholder after receiving DMV approval; and (3) specifying a process by which vehicle proceeds escheat to the state

Applicability

Current law establishes a process through which garage owners may sell or otherwise dispose of vehicles that remain unclaimed after being towed there without the owner's consent, under direction from a property owner or lessee, police officers, or traffic authorities.

The bill (1) makes a number of changes to the process; (2) specifies that the process applies to all nonconsensual towing and abandoned vehicles ordered removed by a police officer, DMV inspector, or parking authority (this is generally the case under current law); and (3) explicitly specifies that the garage owners subject to these requirements include towing companies.

Timeframe for Disposal

Current law requires garage owners, before they can sell an unclaimed vehicle, to hold it for at least (1) 15 days, if the vehicle's market value is \$1,500 or less, or (2) 45 days, if the vehicle's market value is more than \$1,500. The bill extends the minimum amount of time they must hold it to 30 days and 60 days, respectively, but allows garage owners to start the process of selling (e.g., by submitting forms to vehicle owners and DMV) after 15 or 45 days, as applicable.

Under existing law, unchanged by the bill, garage owners may not start this process if there is a pending hearing. (By law, hearings apply only to tows ordered by police or traffic authorities.)

Determining Vehicle Value

Under existing DMV regulations and agency practice, a vehicle's market value is its average trade-in value in the National Automobile Dealers Association (NADA) used car guide, eastern edition.

The bill allows garage owners, when determining the vehicle's value, to deduct for an observed defect or a missing major component part (e.g., engine, hood, or fender).

Municipal Removal of Abandoned Vehicle. Existing law sets certain circumstances under which the title to an abandoned vehicle immediately vests in the municipality where it was discovered, including if the vehicle's market value is less than \$500. The bill requires retail market value be used to make this determination.

Abandoned Vehicles

Under existing law, when police or traffic authorities order a tow of an abandoned vehicle, the police department or authority must notify the vehicle owner and any lienholders about the tow within 48 hours if the vehicle appears on DMV's records. The bill additionally requires towing companies who take these vehicles into custody to make a reasonable effort to identify the vehicle owners and lienholders and send them the same notice.

Notice and Process for Disposal

Existing law requires garage owners to send notices to vehicle owners and lienholders at specified times and outlines the steps they must follow to sell or otherwise dispose of a vehicle. Under existing law, if a vehicle remains unclaimed 48 hours after the tow, the towing company, or the appropriate state or municipal agency in the case of police- or traffic-authority ordered tows, must send a notice of tow to the owner and all lienholders on record.

The table below compares the process under current law and the bill; additional information on some provisions is provided below.

Table: Vehicle Disposal Process, Current Law vs. Bill

<i>Procedural Step</i>	<i>Current Law</i>	<i>Bill</i>
Initiating process to sell stored vehicle (at least 15 days or 45 days after a tow, as applicable)	<p>Garage owner may initiate process to sell vehicle by sending “notice of intent to sell” to the owner and lienholder and provide a copy to DMV.</p> <p>Notice must specify the vehicle’s identifying information; the time, date, and place of its sale; and that any proceeds that exceed the garage’s charges will be available to claim for one year after the sale date.</p>	<p>Notice must include additional specified information on vehicle value and the vehicle disposal process (see below).</p> <p>Garage owners must include a copy of the towing bill of rights with the notice they give to the vehicle’s owner and lienholder.</p> <p>Garage owners must also provide any other information DMV requires, such as photographs of the stored vehicle.</p>
DMV approval of the sale	<p>DMV must approve the notice of intent to sell and, if approved, issue the garage owner an affidavit of compliance.</p> <p>DMV must send an affidavit of compliance to the garage owner after approving the sale.</p>	<p>DMV may send a copy of the notice of intent to sell electronically to the vehicle’s owner or lienholder.</p> <p>DMV must check for active consumer complaints from the vehicle owner before approving a sale and may not approve a sale or issue an affidavit of compliance if a related complaint is unresolved.</p>

<i>Procedural Step</i>	<i>Current Law</i>	<i>Bill</i>
After receiving DMV approval to sell	<p>Garage owner may sell vehicle once five days have passed since notifying the owner about the intent to sell.</p> <p>For vehicles valued at \$1,500 or less, the manner of sale is unspecified. Vehicles valued above that amount must be sold at public auction.</p>	<p>Garage owner must (1) send the vehicle owner and lienholder a notice of proposed sale with the date, time, and place of sale</p> <p>As under current law, the manner of sale is unspecified for vehicles valued at \$1,500 or less and vehicle valued above that amount must be sold at public auction.</p> <p>Five days after this notice, the garage owner may sell the vehicle as long as at least 30 or 60 days, as applicable, have passed.</p>
After selling	<p>Within 15 days after selling, garage owner must report the sale to DMV with the buyer's name and address, the sales price, and the amount of storing, towing, and repair charges. Garage owner must hold any proceeds above what it is owed for towing charges at its place of business for a year to be claimed by the owner. If the owner does not claim them, they escheat to the state.</p>	<p>In addition to reporting the sale to DMV, the garage owner generally must (1) mail any proceeds that exceed its charges to the vehicle owner (as described below) and (2) notify DMV that it did so.</p> <p>Proceeds unclaimed one year after the sale date continue to escheat to the state.</p>

Notices of Intent to Sell and Proposed Sale

The bill requires the notice of intent to sell to also include, in addition to the information required under current law, (1) the vehicle's retail market value, as determined by the garage; (2) that the vehicle will be sold if it is not claimed in time and may still be claimed up until the point the vehicle is sold; and (3) that additional proceeds will be mailed after the sale. The bill eliminates the requirement that this notice include the time, date, and place of the sale, but requires a new notice with this information later in the process (see below). The bill also explicitly subjects notices of intent to sell that are filed with the commissioner to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

The bill requires garage owners to send a new, additional notice of

proposed sale after receiving approval to sell from DMV. The garage owner may sell the vehicle five days after sending the notice. But the bill also specifies that garage owners may not sell the vehicle until at least five days have passed since sending the notice of intent to sell.

Limitation on Storage Costs

Under current law, the DMV commissioner may limit the number of days of storage a garage owner may charge for beyond the initial 30 days (for vehicles valued \$1,500 or less) and 60 days (for vehicles valued over \$1,500). The bill instead limits storage charges after this initial 30 or 60 days, as applicable, to up to 10 days after a garage owner receives approval to sell the vehicle from DMV.

Distribution of Proceeds

By law, garage owners must report the vehicle's sales price; storing, towing, and repair charges, if any; expenses related to the sale; any proceeds; and other information on the vehicle and the buyer to DMV within 15 days after the sale.

Under current law, the garage owner must hold any sale proceeds that remain after subtracting the amount due to the garage owner or an officer who put the vehicle into storage and all the expenses related to the sale and give the proceeds to the vehicle's owner or representative if claimed within one year from the sale.

The bill instead requires the garage owner to deposit the sale proceeds in an escrow account and pay them to the owner or his or her legal representative if they are claimed within one year from the sale.

Under the bill, as under existing law, if the vehicle sale proceeds are not claimed by an owner or a lienholder after one year, the proceeds escheat to the state. The bill specifies that they escheat to the state as unclaimed property, and the garage owner is subject to applicable state law on escheats, including all obligations applicable to unclaimed property holders. Within 10 days after filing any required report and escheating any funds to the state, the garage owner must give the DMV

commissioner evidence that the report has been submitted and the funds have escheated.

§ 15 — WORKING GROUP ON TOWED VEHICLE DISPOSAL PROCESS

Requires DMV to create a working group to study ways to improve the process for selling or disposing of unclaimed towed vehicles

The bill requires the DMV commissioner, or his designee, to convene a working group to study the disposal process for unclaimed towed vehicles.

The working group must study at least the following:

1. alternative methods for selling unclaimed vehicles or disposing of them that balance towing companies' interests in managing their storage sites with motor vehicle owners' interest and ensure vehicles are sold as close as possible to fair market value;
2. issues concerning lienholders who do not redeem vehicles after inspecting them at the towing company's storage site;
3. alternatives to the statutory timeframes for unclaimed vehicle disposal and estimating vehicles' fair market value;
4. ways to modernize and improve the vehicle auction process, including legislative recommendations to do so; and
5. best practices in other states regarding unclaimed vehicle disposal.

The working group consists of the DMV commissioner, or his designee, plus the following members appointed by the commissioner: (1) two DMV employees, (2) three towing industry representatives, and (3) two consumer advocates. Initial appointments must be made by August 1, 2025, and any vacancies must be filled by the appointing authority. The bill also allows the group to consult with any other agencies, officials, or interested parties that the group deems appropriate.

The commissioner (or his designee) serves as chairperson and must schedule the council's first meeting by September 1, 2025. DMV serves as administrative staff to the working group.

By February 1, 2026, the bill requires the working group to submit a report on its findings to the Transportation Committee. The working group terminates when it submits its report or on February 1, 2026, whichever is later.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

§§ 16, 19-21, 25 & 27—MINOR AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

Makes numerous minor, technical, and conforming changes throughout

The bill makes numerous minor and technical changes in these sections and conforming changes throughout.

§§ 17 & 18 — STATE POLICE TOW ROTATION LIST AND VEHICLE OWNER'S CHOICE OF TOWING COMPANY

Requires, rather than allows, the State Police to establish a rotational system for summoning tow trucks within its patrol jurisdiction; requires police officers to give owners or operators of disabled vehicles the opportunity to choose a towing company

The bill requires, rather than allows, the State Police to establish a rotational system for summoning tow trucks within its patrol jurisdiction (tow rotation list), which it already has done in practice.

The bill codifies an existing State Police regulation giving motor vehicle owners and operators the opportunity to select a towing company. Under the bill, as under current regulations, if the vehicle owner or operator is on the scene and able to respond, the state police officer must ask if the owner or operator wants to choose a towing company. If he or she does want to, and the chosen towing company is on the tow rotation lists, the officer must notify the chosen service. If the towing company does not answer or cannot respond within the timeframe established in regulation (currently, 30 minutes, or 20 minutes for limited-access highways), the officer must move on to the next towing company on the list (Conn. Agencies Regs., §§ 29-23a-5 & -7).

The bill also similarly requires municipal police officers to ask whether vehicle owners and operators wish to select a towing company in cases where they are on the scene and able to respond. If the owner or operator selects a towing company and the company is on the municipality's tow rotation list (if it has one), the officer must notify the chosen company. If the towing company cannot do so or does not timely respond, as determined by the officer, the officer must either call the next towing company on the list or choose a towing company.

§ 22 — RECORD RETENTION

Increases towing companies' minimum record retention requirement from two to three years

Existing law requires towing companies to store various records pertaining to their business and the vehicles they tow. The bill extends, from two to three years, the period of time towing companies must retain required records and make them available for inspection by law enforcement or DMV.

§§ 23 & 24 — CIVIL PENALTIES

Increases the maximum civil penalty DMV may impose for violations of dealer and repairer (including towing) laws from \$1,000 to \$5,000

The bill also increases, from \$1,000 to \$5,000, the maximum civil penalty that the DMV commissioner may impose on licensed dealers and repairers for violating the dealer and repairer laws. By law, towing companies must hold a dealer's or repairer's license to be able to operate.

§ 26 — POLICE-ORDERED TOWING COUNCIL STUDY

Requires the Police-Ordered Towing Council to make recommendations about (1) the timeframe for filing complaints about nonconsensual towing and (2) charging for and resolving disputes regarding towing services provided upon request of police, fire officials or traffic authorities

The bill requires the Police-Ordered Towing Council to make recommendations about the following:

1. limiting the period of time a person has to file a complaint with DMV about nonconsensual towing;

2. ensuring towing companies may charge for equipment and labor specifically requested by a police officer, traffic authority, or fire official during the provision of a police-ordered tow; and
3. ways to document towing services that were requested and provided and to resolve related disputes.

The council must report its recommendations to the Transportation Committee by February 1, 2026.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 12 (03/19/2025)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 38 Nay 12 (05/05/2025)