



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

Raised Bill No. 7162

LCO No. 5879



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

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 Section 14-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the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]

19 (a) For the purposes of this section, "motor vehicle" does not include
20 an authorized emergency vehicle or a reasonably identifiable motor
21 vehicle leased by a governmental agency.

22 (b) (1) The 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 to 14-145c, inclusive, and
26 sections 3 and 4 of this act.

27 (2) No owner or lessee of private property, or such owner or lessee's
28 agent, shall (A) issue a parking citation by written warning, posted
29 signage or other means to impose a monetary sanction on an owner of a
30 motor vehicle parked on such private property, or (B) render a motor
31 vehicle on such private property immovable through the use of a wheel-
32 locking device. The provisions of this subdivision shall not apply to an
33 independent institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a)
34 of section 10a-173, or a private secondary school.

35 (c) (1) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, no
36 wrecker service shall tow motor vehicles from private property, unless
37 such wrecker service obtains written authorization to tow each such
38 motor vehicle from the owner or lessee of the private property, or such
39 owner or lessee's agent. Any owner or lessee of the private property may
40 enter into a written contract with a wrecker service to perform general
41 towing services on such private property, provided such wrecker
42 service obtains specific written authorization as required by the
43 provisions of this section prior to towing a motor vehicle on such private
44 property. For the purposes of this section, (A) a wrecker service cannot
45 be an agent of such owner or lessee with the authority to provide the
46 written authorization described in this section, and (B) a person

47 assigned a reserved parking area by the owner or lessee of a residential
48 parking facility, as defined in section 4 of this act, may be an agent of
49 such owner or lessee with the authority to provide such written
50 authorization to tow a motor vehicle in such reserved parking area. A
51 violation of the provisions of this subdivision shall be a class C
52 misdemeanor.

53 (2) The owner or lessee of private property, or such owner or lessee's
54 agent, shall provide a written authorization to a wrecker service to
55 perform a tow of a motor vehicle on such private property. Such written
56 authorization shall be on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of
57 Motor Vehicles and include, but need not be limited to, (A) the make,
58 model, vehicle identification number and number plate of the motor
59 vehicle to be towed, (B) the name, job title, residential or business
60 address and telephone number of the owner, lessee or agent authorizing
61 the tow, and (C) the date and time that such authorization to tow was
62 given. Such owner, lessee or agent shall be physically present on the
63 private property and sign such written authorization under penalty of
64 false statement pursuant to section 53a-157b.

65 (3) Written authorization to tow a motor vehicle from private
66 property is not required if such motor vehicle is left (A) in a space
67 reserved, as required in section 14-253a, for exclusive use by persons
68 who are blind and persons with disabilities and such vehicle does not
69 bear a removable windshield placard or special license plate, as defined
70 in section 14-253a, (B) in an area reserved for authorized emergency
71 vehicles, (C) within ten feet of a fire hydrant, as provided in section 14-
72 251, (D) blocking [building] access [,] to a building or parking space, or
73 (E) blocking entry or exit from such property [, or (F) for forty-eight or
74 more hours] or parking space.

75 [(3) A lending institution may repossess any motor vehicle, in
76 accordance with the provisions of section 36a-785, by contracting with a
77 wrecker licensed under section 14-66 or an entity exempt from such
78 licensure, as provided in subsection (f) of section 14-66, to tow or

79 otherwise remove such motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions
80 of this section and sections 14-145a to 14-145c, inclusive. In the case of a
81 repossession, no signage as described in subdivision (1) of this
82 subsection shall be required.

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

87 (4) No owner or lessee of private property, or such owner or lessee's
88 agent, shall authorize the towing of a motor vehicle on such private
89 property solely because such motor vehicle is unregistered or has an
90 expired registration in violation of section 14-12.

91 (5) No owner or lessee of a residential parking facility, as defined in
92 section 4 of this act, or such owner or lessee's agent, shall authorize the
93 towing of a motor vehicle on such residential parking facility solely
94 because the valid authorization to park at such residential parking
95 facility issued by such owner, lessee or agent expired less than fifteen
96 days earlier.

97 (d) (1) Before a wrecker service connects a wrecker to a motor vehicle
98 without the consent of the motor vehicle's owner or operator, the
99 wrecker service shall document the condition of the motor vehicle and
100 the reason for the tow by:

101 (A) Taking at least four photographs of the motor vehicle, with at
102 least one photograph taken from the front, the rear, the operator's side
103 and the passenger's side of the motor vehicle. Each such photograph
104 shall (i) show the entire motor vehicle from the required angle, (ii) have
105 the motor vehicle fill at least three-fourths of the photograph, measured
106 from side to side, and (iii) be rendered in a resolution of at least two
107 thousand pixels by at least two thousand pixels; and

108 (B) Taking a photograph that shows the reasons for the motor vehicle

109 being towed. Such photograph shall (i) show the position of the motor
110 vehicle in relation to the reason, including any sign, that the motor
111 vehicle was towed, and (ii) be rendered in a resolution of at least two
112 thousand pixels by at least two thousand pixels.

113 (2) Upon request by the owner or operator of a towed motor vehicle,
114 or such owner or operator's agent, the lienholder of the towed motor
115 vehicle or the insurance company acting on behalf of the owner of the
116 towed motor vehicle, the towing company shall provide (A) a copy of
117 the written authorization described in subsection (c) of this section, if
118 applicable, and (B) copies of the photographs taken pursuant to
119 subdivision (1) of this subsection. A rebuttable presumption that a
120 wrecker service damaged a motor vehicle is created by evidence that the
121 wrecker service failed to provide photographs of the motor vehicle's
122 condition upon request by such owner, operator, agent, lienholder or
123 insurance company and the motor vehicle has suffered damage. A
124 rebuttable presumption that a wrecker service did not have
125 authorization to tow a motor vehicle is created by evidence that a
126 wrecker service failed to provide a photograph that shows the reason
127 for the tow.

128 (e) (1) If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle returns to the motor
129 vehicle that has not yet been connected to a wrecker, the wrecker service
130 shall stop preparations to tow the motor vehicle and inform the owner
131 or operator that if such owner or operator moves the motor vehicle or
132 rectifies the reason for the tow, the wrecker service will not tow such
133 motor vehicle and will not charge a fee to the owner or operator.

134 (2) If the owner or operator of a motor vehicle returns to the motor
135 vehicle that has been connected to a wrecker, but has not yet been
136 removed from the private property, the wrecker service shall stop
137 preparations to tow the motor vehicle and inform the owner or operator
138 that the wrecker service will release the motor vehicle for a fee
139 established by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to
140 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-66, as amended by this act.

141 If the owner or operator pays such fee, the wrecker shall immediately
142 release the motor vehicle. If such owner or operator is unable to pay
143 such fee, the wrecker service shall proceed with the tow and provide a
144 copy of the consumer bill of rights regarding towing developed
145 pursuant to section 5 of this act to such owner or operator.

146 ~~[(b)]~~ ~~(f)~~ (1) (A) ~~[When]~~ Not later than two hours after an unauthorized
147 motor vehicle is towed or otherwise removed by a wrecker ~~[licensed~~
148 ~~under section 14-66]~~ service, or a repossessed motor vehicle is towed or
149 otherwise removed by a wrecker service or an exempt entity described
150 in subsection (f) of section 14-66, as amended by this act, the ~~[licensee or~~
151 ~~operator of the]~~ wrecker service or the exempt entity shall notify the
152 local police department ~~[of the tow or removal within two hours]~~ or
153 resident state trooper serving the municipality where the tow or
154 removal was conducted and specify the time the motor vehicle was
155 towed or removed, the location from which the vehicle was removed
156 and the location to which the vehicle is stored. Such notification shall be
157 submitted, in writing, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail and
158 the record of such notification shall be retained by such ~~[licensee,~~
159 ~~operator]~~ wrecker service or exempt entity in accordance with the
160 provisions of section 14-66b, as amended by this act. ~~[(B)]~~ No such
161 ~~[licensee, operator]~~ wrecker service or exempt entity may charge a
162 storage fee for an unauthorized or repossessed motor vehicle for the
163 time it is stored prior to notification of the local police department or
164 resident state trooper by the ~~[licensee, operator]~~ wrecker service or
165 exempt entity.

166 ~~(B)~~ If such motor vehicle [is not claimed within] remains unclaimed
167 forty-eight hours after the notification pursuant to subparagraph (A) of
168 this subdivision, the ~~[licensee or operator of the]~~ wrecker service or
169 owner of the garage where such motor vehicle is stored or the exempt
170 entity shall immediately complete a notice of such tow, on a form
171 prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and mail a copy of
172 such form by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and
173 all lienholders of record. If the motor vehicle is not claimed by its owner

174 within the time period specified in subsection [(e) of section 14-150, the
175 licensee or operator of the wrecker or] (b) of section 10 of this act, the
176 wrecker service or owner of the garage where such motor vehicle is
177 stored or the exempt entity may dispose of such motor vehicle in
178 accordance with the provisions of [subsection (e) and subsections (g) to
179 (j), inclusive, of section 14-150] section 10 of this act.

180 [(2) (A) When an unauthorized motor vehicle is rendered immovable
181 through use of a wheel-locking device by an owner or lessee of private
182 property or his or her agent, such owner, lessee or agent shall notify the
183 local police department of such action within two hours. Such
184 notification shall be submitted in writing or transmitted by facsimile or
185 electronic mail. The record of such notification shall be retained by such
186 owner, lessee or agent at the private property upon which such action
187 took place, for a period of not less than six months and shall be available
188 for inspection during regular business hours by any sworn member of
189 the local police department or law enforcement officer or inspector
190 designated by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

191 (B) No owner, lessee or agent may charge a fee to remove a wheel-
192 locking device prior to notification of the local police department. The
193 fee charged to remove a wheel-locking device may not be more than
194 fifty dollars. The person claiming the motor vehicle may choose to pay
195 such fee in cash, by check or by debit or credit card. Ten per cent of such
196 fee shall be remitted to the local police department by the owner, lessee
197 or agent. If such motor vehicle is not claimed within forty-eight hours
198 after being rendered immovable, the owner, lessee or agent shall
199 immediately complete a notice that such motor vehicle has been
200 rendered immovable, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and
201 mail a copy of such form by certified mail, return receipt requested, to
202 the owner of such motor vehicle and all lienholders of record. If the
203 motor vehicle is not claimed by its owner within the time period
204 specified in subsection (e) of section 14-150, the owner, lessee or agent
205 may dispose of such motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions of
206 subsection (e) and subsections (g) to (j), inclusive, of section 14-150.]

207 ~~[(3)]~~ (2) The local police department or resident state trooper, not later
208 than forty-eight hours after receiving notification of a tow or removal of
209 an unauthorized motor vehicle pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
210 subsection, ~~[or use of a wheel-locking device pursuant to subdivision (2)~~
211 ~~of this subsection,]~~ shall enter the vehicle identification number into the
212 National Crime Information Center database and the Connecticut On-
213 Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing System to
214 determine whether such motor vehicle has been reported as stolen. If
215 such motor vehicle has been reported as stolen, the local police
216 department or resident state trooper shall immediately notify the
217 department that reported the vehicle as stolen.

218 ~~[(c)]~~ (g) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with
219 the provisions of chapter 54, (1) specifying the circumstances under
220 which title to any motor vehicle towed or stored, or both, ~~[or rendered~~
221 ~~immovable]~~ under this section may be transferred to any wrecker
222 service or person, firm or corporation ~~[towing,]~~ storing ~~[or rendering~~
223 ~~immovable]~~ such vehicle, and (2) establishing the procedure whereby
224 such wrecker service or person, firm or corporation may obtain title to
225 such motor vehicle.

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

232 ~~[(e) Any]~~ (h) Except as provided in subdivisions (1) and (2) of
233 subsection (c) of this section, any person who violates any provision of
234 this section shall, for a first offense, be deemed to have committed an
235 infraction and be fined fifty dollars, and, for each subsequent offense,
236 shall be fined not less than fifty dollars and not more than one hundred
237 dollars or imprisoned not more than thirty days or be both fined and
238 imprisoned.

239 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the right of a
240 municipality or the state to remove an abandoned motor vehicle in
241 accordance with the provisions of section 14-150, as amended by this
242 act.

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

245 [(a) No vehicle shall be towed or removed from private property
246 except (1) upon express instruction of the owner or lessee, or his or her
247 agent, of the property upon which the vehicle is trespassing, or (2) for
248 the purpose of repossession of the motor vehicle by a lending
249 institution. No vehicle shall be rendered immovable on private property
250 through the use of a wheel-locking device except upon express
251 instruction of the owner or lessee, or his or her agent. Nothing in this
252 subsection shall be construed to limit the right of a municipality or the
253 state to remove an abandoned motor vehicle in accordance with the
254 provisions of section 14-150.

255 (b) No person or firm that tows or removes] No wrecker service that
256 tows a motor vehicle from private property [or renders a motor vehicle
257 immovable on private property] shall rebate or pay any money or other
258 valuable consideration to the owner or lessee, or [his or her] such owner
259 or lessee's agent, of the property from which the motor vehicle is towed,
260 [or removed or on which the vehicle is rendered immovable,] or to a
261 lending institution, for the privilege of towing [, removing or rendering
262 immovable] such motor vehicle.

263 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) For the purposes of this
264 section, "parking facilities" means one or more lots, garages, parking
265 terminals or other structures and accommodations for the parking of
266 motor vehicles off any highway.

267 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section, the
268 owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, of a parking facility
269 may utilize a wrecker service to tow any motor vehicle left without

270 authorization at such parking facility in accordance with the provisions
271 of section 14-145 of the general statutes, as amended by this act,
272 provided such owner, lessee or agent installs conspicuous signage at all
273 entryways to the parking facility. Such signage shall (1) bear the
274 international symbol for towing, (2) be at least eighteen inches long and
275 twenty-four inches wide with letters not less than one inch in height, (3)
276 state that motor vehicles left without authorization at such parking
277 facility may be removed at the expense of the owner of the motor
278 vehicle, (4) state any costs or fees that may be charged, and (5) provide
279 the name, address and telephone number for the wrecker service
280 performing the tow or, alternatively, a telephone number in order for
281 the motor vehicle owner or operator to locate where such motor vehicle
282 has been stored and obtain information regarding how to redeem such
283 motor vehicle.

284 (c) If only a portion of the parking facility is reserved for exclusive
285 use, the owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, of such parking
286 facility shall install conspicuous signage, as described in subsection (b)
287 of this section, near such reserved portion instead of at the entryways to
288 such parking facility.

289 (d) The owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, of a parking
290 facility may utilize the services of a wrecker service to tow a motor
291 vehicle left without authorization at such parking facility without
292 installing conspicuous signage, as described in subsection (b) of this
293 section, if such motor vehicle is left (1) in a space reserved, as required
294 in section 14-253a of the general statutes, for exclusive use by persons
295 who are blind and persons with disabilities, and such motor vehicle
296 does not bear a removable windshield placard or special license plate,
297 as defined in section 14-253a of the general statutes; (2) in an area
298 reserved for authorized emergency vehicles; (3) within ten feet of a fire
299 hydrant, as provided in section 14-251 of the general statutes; (4)
300 blocking access to a building or reserved parking area; (5) blocking entry
301 to or exit from such parking facility or reserved parking area; or (6) for
302 forty-eight or more hours.

303 (e) (1) No owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, of a
304 parking facility shall utilize a wrecker service to tow any motor vehicle
305 left without authorization at such parking facility, unless conspicuous
306 signage, as required pursuant to the provisions of this section, is
307 installed at such parking facility.

308 (2) No wrecker service shall tow a motor vehicle from a parking
309 facility, unless such wrecker service verifies conspicuous signage, as
310 required pursuant to the provisions of this section, is installed at such
311 parking facility.

312 (3) Any person who violates any provision of this subsection shall be
313 deemed to have committed an infraction.

314 Sec. 4. (NEW) (a) For the purposes of this section, (1) "residential
315 parking facilities" means one or more lots, garages, parking terminals or
316 other structures and accommodations for the parking of motor vehicles
317 off any highway located at a multifamily dwelling consisting of five or
318 more units, a condominium or a common interest community; (2)
319 "condominium" has the same meaning as provided in section 47-68a of
320 the general statutes; and (3) "common interest community" has the same
321 meaning as provided in section 46-202 of the general statutes.

322 (b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the owner or
323 lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, of a residential parking facility
324 may utilize a wrecker service to tow any motor vehicle left without
325 authorization at such residential parking facility, provided such owner,
326 lessee or agent (1) installs conspicuous signage as described in section 3
327 of this act, (2) installs conspicuous signage that lists the violations that
328 would cause a motor vehicle to be towed from such residential parking
329 facility, and (3) affixes a written notice to such motor vehicle at least
330 twenty-four hours prior to towing such motor vehicle. Any such notice
331 shall (A) state that the motor vehicle will be towed from the residential
332 parking facility without the consent of the owner or operator of the
333 motor vehicle if the motor vehicle remains parked in the same location

334 at the parking facility, (B) describe why the motor vehicle will be
335 removed, (C) indicate the time when the motor vehicle will be removed,
336 which shall be not earlier than twenty-four hours after the time the
337 notice was affixed to the motor vehicle, (D) indicate the time when the
338 notice is affixed to the motor vehicle, and (E) be affixed to the motor
339 vehicle at a conspicuous location on the windshield nearest the
340 operator's side.

341 (c) The owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, of a
342 residential parking facility may utilize the services of a wrecker service
343 to tow a motor vehicle left without authorization at a residential parking
344 facility without installing conspicuous signage, as described in
345 subdivisions (1) and (2) of subsection (b) of this section, and affixing a
346 written notice, as described in subdivision (3) of subsection (b) of this
347 section, if such motor vehicle is left (1) in a space reserved, as required
348 in section 14-253a of the general statutes, for exclusive use by persons
349 who are blind and persons with disabilities and such motor vehicle does
350 not bear a removable windshield placard or special license plate, as
351 defined in section 14-253a of the general statutes; (2) in an area reserved
352 for authorized emergency vehicles; (3) within ten feet of a fire hydrant,
353 as provided in section 14-251 of the general statutes; (4) blocking access
354 to a building or reserved parking area; (5) blocking entry to or exit from
355 such parking facility or reserved parking area; (6) for forty-eight or more
356 hours; (7) in an area not designated for the parking of motor vehicles; or
357 (8) in violation of a parking ban to facilitate the removal of snow and ice,
358 provided such owner, lessee or agent (A) posts notice of such parking
359 ban in conspicuous places in the building or buildings, as applicable,
360 and residential parking facility, (B) communicates such parking ban
361 directly by telephone, electronic mail or text message at least four hours
362 before enacting such parking ban, and (C) notwithstanding the
363 provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 14-145 of the
364 general statutes, as amended by this act, provides written authorization
365 to such wrecker service to tow any vehicle from such residential parking
366 facility that is in violation of such parking ban and signs such written

367 authorization under penalty of false statement pursuant to section 53a-
368 157b of the general statutes that such owner, lessee or agent complied
369 with the provisions of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision.

370 (d) If a motor vehicle remains at a residential parking facility a third
371 or subsequent time in the same manner that caused the motor vehicle to
372 be subject to previous written notices as described in subsection (c) of
373 this section, the owner, lessee or agent of such residential parking
374 facility need not affix a written notice to such motor vehicle before
375 utilizing the services of a wrecker service to tow the motor vehicle.

376 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) Not later than September 1,
377 2025, the Attorney General shall develop, and thereafter revise as
378 necessary, a consumer bill of rights regarding towing that includes, but
379 need not be limited to, (1) a summary of the rights and responsibilities
380 of a motor vehicle owner or operator if such motor vehicle is towed; (2)
381 the rates and charges that a wrecker service may charge for (A)
382 nonconsensual towing or transporting, as defined in section 14-66 of the
383 general statutes, as amended by this act, (B) storage, and (C) release of a
384 motor vehicle that has been connected to a wrecker but not yet towed;
385 (3) a description of the records and photographs that an owner or
386 operator may request from the wrecker service; (4) a warning that a
387 wrecker service may sell towed vehicles pursuant to section 10 of this
388 act; and (5) information on filing a customer complaint with the
389 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 14-63 of the
390 general statutes, as amended by this act. The Attorney General shall
391 publish the consumer bill of rights in English, Spanish and in any other
392 language prescribed by the Attorney General and make the consumer
393 bill of rights available for public dissemination.

394 (b) On and after October 1, 2025, the Attorney General shall post the
395 consumer bill of rights regarding towing on the Attorney General's
396 Internet web site and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall post
397 such bill of rights on the Department of Motor Vehicles' Internet web
398 site.

399 (c) On and after October 1, 2025, a wrecker service shall post the
400 consumer bill of rights at the wrecker service's place of business and
401 make copies of such bill of rights available for distribution to customers
402 who visit such place of business. If a wrecker service maintains an
403 Internet web site for its business, the wrecker service shall prominently
404 post such bill of rights on such Internet web site. A violation of the
405 provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to be an unfair or
406 deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the
407 general statutes.

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

410 (a) (1) For the purposes of this section, "nonconsensual towing or
411 transporting" means the towing or transporting of a motor vehicle in
412 accordance with the provisions of section 14-145, as amended by this
413 act, or for which arrangements are made by order of a police officer or
414 traffic authority; "police officer" has the same meaning as provided in
415 section 7-294a; and "traffic authority" has the same meaning as provided
416 in section 14-297.

417 ~~[(a) (1)]~~ (2) No person, firm or corporation shall engage in the
418 business of operating a wrecker for the purpose of towing or
419 transporting motor vehicles, including motor vehicles which are
420 disabled, inoperative or wrecked or are being removed in accordance
421 with the provisions of section 14-145, as amended by this act, 14-150, as
422 amended by this act, or 14-307, unless such person, firm or corporation
423 is a motor vehicle dealer or repairer licensed under the provisions of
424 [subpart (D) of this part] section 14-52.

425 ~~[(2)]~~ (3) The commissioner shall establish and publish a schedule of
426 uniform rates and charges for the nonconsensual towing and
427 transporting of motor vehicles and for the storage of motor vehicles
428 which shall be just and reasonable. Such schedule shall include a charge
429 for the release of a motor vehicle that has been connected to a wrecker

430 but not yet towed from the private property from which such motor
 431 vehicle is to be towed. Upon petition of any [person, firm or corporation
 432 licensed in accordance with the provisions of this section] wrecker
 433 service, but not more frequently than once every two years, the
 434 commissioner shall reconsider the established rates and charges and
 435 shall amend such rates and charges if the commissioner, after
 436 consideration of the factors stated in this subdivision, determines that
 437 such rates and charges are no longer just and reasonable. In establishing
 438 and amending such rates and charges, the commissioner may consider
 439 factors, including, but not limited to, the Consumer Price Index, rates
 440 set by other jurisdictions, charges for towing and transporting services
 441 provided pursuant to a contract with an automobile club or automobile
 442 association licensed under the provisions of section 14-67 and rates
 443 published in standard service manuals. The commissioner shall hold a
 444 public hearing for the purpose of obtaining additional information
 445 concerning such rates and charges.

446 [(3)] (4) With respect to the nonconsensual towing or transporting
 447 and the storage of motor vehicles, no [such person, firm or corporation]
 448 wrecker service shall charge more than the rates and charges published
 449 by the commissioner. Any person aggrieved by any action of the
 450 commissioner under the provisions of this section may take an appeal
 451 therefrom in accordance with section 4-183, except venue for such
 452 appeal shall be in the judicial district of New Britain.

453 (b) (1) The commissioner, or an inspector authorized by the
 454 commissioner, shall examine each wrecker, including its number,
 455 equipment and identification, and shall determine the mechanical
 456 condition of such wrecker and whether or not it is properly equipped to
 457 do the work intended. A wrecker shall be deemed properly equipped if
 458 there are flashing yellow lights installed and mounted on such wrecker
 459 that [(1)] (A) show in all directions at all times, and [(2)] (B) are as close
 460 to the back of the cab of such wrecker as practicable. Such lights shall be
 461 in operation when such wrecker is towing a vehicle and when such
 462 wrecker is at the scene of an accident or the location of a disabled motor

463 vehicle. In addition, each wrecker shall be equipped with a spot light
464 mounted so that its beam of light is directed toward the hoisting
465 equipment in the rear of such wrecker. The hoisting equipment of each
466 wrecker shall be of sufficient capacity to perform the service intended
467 and shall be securely mounted to the frame of such vehicle. A fire
468 extinguisher shall be carried at all times on each wrecker which shall be
469 in proper working condition, mounted in a permanent bracket on each
470 wrecker and have a minimum rating of eight bc. A set of three flares in
471 operating condition shall be carried at all times on each wrecker and
472 shall be used between the periods of one-half hour after sunset and one-
473 half hour before sunrise when the wrecker is parked on a highway while
474 making emergency repairs or preparing to pick up a disabled vehicle to
475 remove it from a highway or adjoining property.

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

480 (3) No [licensee] wrecker service shall require the owner of a disabled
481 vehicle to sign a contract for the repair or storage of such owner's
482 [damaged] disabled vehicle as part of the towing consideration or to
483 sign an order for the repair of, or authorization for estimating repairs to
484 such vehicle, until the tow job has been completed.

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

487 (5) No [licensee] wrecker service shall knowingly permit any person
488 to occupy a vehicle while the vehicle is being towed.

489 (6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
490 [licensee] wrecker service and owner of the [damaged] disabled vehicle
491 from entering into an agreement for the repair or storage of such vehicle
492 upon the completion of the tow job.

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

501 (d) An owner of a wrecker may apply to the commissioner for a
502 general distinguishing number and number plate for the purpose of
503 displaying such number plate on a motor vehicle temporarily in the
504 custody of such owner and being towed or transported by such owner.
505 The commissioner shall issue such number and number plate to an
506 owner of a wrecker (1) who has complied with the requirements of this
507 section, and (2) whose wrecker is equipped in accordance with the
508 provisions of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section. The
509 commissioner shall charge a fee to cover the cost of issuance and
510 renewal of such number plates.

511 (e) With respect to the nonconsensual towing or transporting of a
512 motor vehicle, no [licensee] wrecker service may tow or transport a
513 vehicle to the premises of any person, firm or corporation engaged in
514 the storage of vehicles for compensation unless such person, firm or
515 corporation adheres to the storage charges published by the
516 commissioner.

517 (f) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any person, firm,
518 corporation or association: (1) Towing or transporting a motor vehicle,
519 provided such person, firm, corporation or association is licensed as a
520 motor vehicle dealer [pursuant to] under the provisions of [subpart (D)
521 of this part] section 14-52 and does not offer direct towing or
522 transporting to the public or engage in nonconsensual towing or
523 transporting; (2) operating as an automobile club or automobile
524 association licensed under section 14-67; (3) operating as a motor vehicle

525 recycler licensed under section 14-67l or any contractor of such recycler,
 526 provided such recycler or its contractor does not offer towing or
 527 transporting to the public or engage in nonconsensual towing or
 528 transporting; (4) engaging in the business of repossession of motor
 529 vehicles for lending institutions, provided it does not offer direct towing
 530 or transporting unless licensed as a motor vehicle dealer under the
 531 provisions of [subpart (D) of this part] section 14-52; (5) towing motor
 532 vehicles owned or leased by such person, firm, association or
 533 corporation; (6) towing or transporting motor vehicles for hire, with the
 534 appropriate operating authority, as defined in 49 CFR 390.5, as amended
 535 from time to time, provided such person, firm, corporation or
 536 association does not offer towing or transporting to the public or engage
 537 in nonconsensual towing or transporting; or (7) towing motor vehicles
 538 to or from an auction conducted by a motor vehicle dealer licensed
 539 [pursuant to] under the provisions of [subpart (D) of this part] section
 540 14-52, provided such person, firm, corporation or association does not
 541 offer direct towing or transporting to the public or engage in
 542 nonconsensual towing or transporting.

543 (g) Any [law enforcement] police officer or traffic authority [, as
 544 defined in section 14-297,] may determine that a vehicle blocking a
 545 travel lane on a limited access highway constitutes an emergency and a
 546 threat to public safety. Upon such determination, such [law
 547 enforcement] officer or traffic authority may direct the [operator of a]
 548 wrecker service to remove such vehicle. Any such [operator of a]
 549 wrecker service shall be held harmless from liability or causes of action
 550 for property damages incurred to such vehicle or to its contents or the
 551 surrounding area caused by such emergency removal, provided such
 552 removal measures are taken under the direction of such officer or
 553 authority and all reasonable care is taken by the [operator of the]
 554 wrecker service to limit any further damage to such vehicle, such
 555 vehicle's contents or the surrounding area.

556 [(h) For the purposes of this section, "nonconsensual towing or
 557 transporting" means the towing or transporting of a motor vehicle in

558 accordance with the provisions of section 14-145 or for which
559 arrangements are made by order of a law enforcement officer or traffic
560 authority, as defined in section 14-297.]

561 [(i)] (h) Any person, firm, corporation or association that violates the
562 provisions of this section shall, for a first offense, be deemed to have
563 committed an infraction and for a second or subsequent offense, shall
564 be guilty of a class D misdemeanor.

565 Sec. 7. Section 14-63 of the general statutes is repealed and the
566 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

567 (a) The [commissioner may make, alter or repeal] Commissioner of
568 Motor Vehicles may adopt regulations governing the administration of
569 all statutes relating to the license and business of dealers and repairers
570 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54.

571 (b) (1) For the purposes of this section, "nonconsensual towing or
572 transporting" has the same meaning as provided in section 14-66, as
573 amended by this act.

574 [(b)] (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall [adopt
575 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
576 establishing (1) a procedure whereby] receive, process and investigate
577 complaints from customers of dealers and repairers [may file
578 complaints with the Department of Motor Vehicles] concerning the
579 operations of and services provided by any [such licensees, and (2) a
580 procedure specifying the circumstances under which a licensee may
581 stipulate to a complaint and waive such licensee's right to an
582 administrative hearing. Such regulations shall provide for the
583 commissioner to contact each licensee that is the subject of a complaint
584 in order to notify such licensee of the complaint and to relate to such
585 licensee the particular matters alleged by the complainant. If the
586 commissioner determines that the facts as alleged give rise to one or
587 more violations of law related to the licensee's business, the
588 commissioner may attempt to mediate a voluntary resolution of the

589 complaint acceptable to the complainant and the licensee. Such
590 regulations shall also provide that, if an acceptable resolution to the
591 complaint is not achieved, the commissioner shall complete the
592 commissioner's investigation of the facts and shall, if the commissioner
593 has reason to believe that the licensee has violated any provision of
594 section 14-64, proceed to take any action authorized under the
595 provisions of section 14-64. If, after such an investigation, the
596 commissioner elects not to take action against the licensee, the
597 commissioner shall notify both the complainant and the licensee in
598 writing.] such dealer or repairer, including the provision of
599 nonconsensual towing or transporting, recovery or storage of motor
600 vehicles. The commissioner may permit a dealer or repairer to stipulate
601 to a complaint and waive such dealer or repairer's right to an
602 administrative hearing under the provisions of chapter 54.

603 (3) Any complaint filed with the commissioner pursuant to the
604 provisions of this subsection shall (A) be in writing, on a form provided
605 by or acceptable to the commissioner, (B) contain a statement of the facts
606 that form the basis of the claim against such dealer or repairer, (C)
607 include the dealer or repairer's name, the customer's name and address,
608 the date or dates on which the transaction or transactions with the dealer
609 or repairer occurred and, if applicable, the description of any vehicle
610 that is the subject of a complaint, (D) be accompanied by any supporting
611 documentation that pertains to the complaint, including, but not limited
612 to, invoices, repair orders and evidence of payment, and (E) be mailed
613 to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

614 (4) Not later than fourteen days from the date of receiving a customer
615 complaint, the commissioner shall notify the customer and the dealer or
616 repairer that is the subject of the complaint that the complaint (A) was
617 received and the particular matters alleged by the customer, and (B) will
618 be subject to further investigation. Such investigation shall consist of a
619 determination of (i) whether the complaint is complete and all relevant
620 documents were received, and (ii) whether the complaint states facts
621 which, if true, give rise to one or more violations of sections 14-51 to 14-

622 66c, inclusive, as amended by this act, or sections 14-145 to 14-145b,
623 inclusive, as amended by this act, section 14-150, as amended by this act,
624 section 3 of this act, or any regulation adopted pursuant to said sections,
625 or section 11 of this act.

626 (5) In the event that the complaint is incomplete, the commissioner
627 shall notify the customer, in writing, of what deficiencies exist in the
628 complaint and provide the date by which the customer is required to
629 submit documentation to address such deficiencies. In the event that
630 such deficiencies are not addressed by the specified date, no action shall
631 be taken on the complaint and the commissioner shall notify the
632 customer and the dealer or repairer in writing. The commissioner shall
633 maintain a written record of all conversations with the customer and
634 include such record with the complaint in the records of the department.

635 (6) In the event that the complaint does not state facts that give rise to
636 a violation of sections 14-51 to 14-66c, inclusive, as amended by this act,
637 or sections 14-145 to 14-145b, inclusive, as amended by this act, or any
638 regulation adopted pursuant to said sections, the commissioner shall
639 notify the customer and the dealer or repairer, in writing, that the
640 commissioner will not proceed with the complaint. Such notice shall
641 include a brief statement of the reasons why the commissioner has taken
642 no action. [The commissioner shall also inform the complainant and the
643 licensee that an unresolved complaint exists and that, unless the
644 commissioner has determined that the allegations, even if true, fail to
645 state a violation of applicable statutory or regulatory standards, the
646 same shall be recorded in the records of the department pertaining to
647 such licensee until such time as the licensee submits to the commissioner
648 satisfactory evidence, signed by the complainant or the complainant's
649 attorney, that the claim has been resolved by agreement with the
650 complainant or submits to the department satisfactory evidence of final
651 adjudication in favor of such licensee.]

652 (7) If, after the investigation, the commissioner determines that a
653 complaint is complete and states one or more violations of sections 14-

654 51 to 14-66c, inclusive, as amended by this act, or sections 14-145 to 14-
655 145b, inclusive, as amended by this act, or any regulation adopted
656 pursuant to said sections, the commissioner shall notify the customer
657 and the dealer or repairer of such determination. The notification shall
658 relate the particular matters involved in the complaint and inform the
659 dealer or repairer that such dealer or repairer shall respond to the
660 matters alleged in the complaint not later than ten days after the date of
661 the notification. Upon receipt of the dealer or repairer's response, the
662 commissioner may (A) mediate a voluntary resolution of the complaint
663 that is acceptable to the customer and the dealer or repairer, (B) proceed
664 with an administrative hearing under chapter 54, or (C) determine that
665 no action is to be taken and notify the customer and the dealer or
666 repairer, in writing, of the reason for that determination.

667 (8) If the complaint is resolved through voluntary mediation, the
668 dealer or repairer shall waive its right to an administrative hearing
669 under chapter 54. If the dealer or repairer enters into a stipulated
670 agreement, settlement agreement or consent order, and fails to comply
671 with the terms of such agreement or order, the dealer or repairer's
672 license shall be suspended in accordance with the terms of such
673 agreement or order. An agreement between the [licensee and the
674 complainant] customer and the dealer or repairer shall not preclude the
675 commissioner from proceeding to take action if the commissioner has
676 reason to believe that the [licensee] dealer or repairer has violated any
677 provision of section 14-64, as amended by this act.

678 (9) If the commissioner determines that there is one or more probable
679 violations of sections 14-51 to 14-66c, inclusive, as amended by this act,
680 or sections 14-145 to 14-145b, inclusive, as amended by this act, or any
681 regulation adopted pursuant to said sections and will take action, the
682 department shall notify the customer and dealer or repairer and proceed
683 with a hearing in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54,
684 regardless of whether the matter has or has not been settled between the
685 customer and the dealer or repairer. The commissioner may proceed to
686 take any action authorized under the provisions of section 14-64, as

687 amended by this act, and, in the case of medium-duty or heavy-duty
688 towing, recommend to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and
689 Public Protection that such dealer or repairer be removed from the
690 rotational system maintained pursuant to section 29-23a, as amended by
691 this act.

692 (10) A decision by the commissioner not to take action against the
693 [licensee] dealer or repairer pursuant to the provisions of this subsection
694 shall be without prejudice to the claim of the customer; and neither the
695 fact that the [department] commissioner has determined not to proceed
696 nor the notice furnished to the parties, in accordance with this
697 subsection, shall be admissible in any civil action.

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

701 Sec. 8. Section 14-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the
702 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

703 (a) (1) Any vehicle towed or removed from private property pursuant
704 to sections 14-145 to 14-145c, inclusive, as amended by this act, and
705 sections 3 and 4 of this act shall be stored at the site of the [towing
706 company's] wrecker service's business in a secured storage lot, provided
707 the site of such lot is located within a ten-mile radius of the private
708 property from which the vehicle was towed. If the site of such lot is not
709 located within such ten-mile radius, such vehicle shall be stored at the
710 storage facility nearest the private property from which the vehicle was
711 towed. The site shall be open during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to [5:00] 6:00
712 p.m., Monday through Friday, and be reasonably available on Saturday,
713 Sunday and holidays, for the purpose of vehicle redemption and
714 removing any personal property from within a stored motor vehicle. For
715 the purposes of this section, a wrecker service is deemed to be
716 reasonably available on Saturday, Sunday and holidays if (A) the
717 wrecker service is open for at least four hours on Saturday, Sunday and

718 holidays, or (B) the wrecker service has an advertised telephone number
719 to take requests for the release of a stored motor vehicle and for access
720 to personal property within a stored motor vehicle and such wrecker
721 service responds to such requests not later than four hours from the time
722 of such request.

723 (2) [No vehicle shall be rendered immovable on private property
724 through use of a wheel-locking device pursuant to sections 14-145 to 14-
725 145c, inclusive, unless the vehicle is located in a secure place on such
726 property that is reasonably accessible for the purpose of vehicle
727 redemption. Personnel to provide for vehicle redemption shall be on
728 such property for not less than eight hours after a vehicle has been
729 rendered immovable. Additionally, signage shall describe the hours for
730 vehicle redemption when the eight-hour deadline has passed. If the
731 vehicle is towed or removed from such property, all provisions of
732 sections 14-145 to 14-145c, inclusive, relating to the towing or removal
733 of a vehicle shall be applicable.] The wrecker service does not have a lien
734 upon the personal property within a motor vehicle stored at such
735 wrecker service's secured storage lot and shall permit the owner of the
736 motor vehicle or a person authorized by such owner to access such
737 motor vehicle and remove any personal property from within such
738 motor vehicle during any hours that such wrecker service is available to
739 redeem a motor vehicle.

740 (3) If a wrecker service performs towing for compensation outside its
741 hours of operation, contracts to perform towing for compensation
742 outside its hours of operation or advertises to the public that it is
743 available to perform towing for compensation outside of its hours of
744 operation, the wrecker service shall permit (A) the motor vehicle owner,
745 a lending institution or person authorized by the owner or lending
746 institution to redeem a stored motor vehicle, or (B) the motor vehicle
747 owner or person authorized by the owner to remove personal property
748 from within the stored motor vehicle, at any time including times
749 outside its hours of operation. The wrecker service shall release the
750 motor vehicle to such owner, lending institution or authorized person,

751 or permit access to personal property within the motor vehicle, within a
752 reasonable time after the request for release or request for access is
753 made. For the purposes of this section, a person is deemed to have made
754 a request for the release of a stored motor vehicle, or access to personal
755 property within a stored motor vehicle, by appearing in person at the
756 wrecker service's place of business or by placing a telephone call to the
757 wrecker service at its advertised telephone number.

758 (4) No wrecker service shall charge for vehicle storage on a day when
759 such wrecker service does not make the vehicle available for
760 redemption. The wrecker service may charge a separate fee established
761 by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to the provisions of
762 subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section 14-66, as amended by this act,
763 if the wrecker service releases a motor vehicle outside its hours of
764 operation or on a day when such wrecker service is not available to
765 perform towing for compensation outside its hours of operation.

766 (b) When a vehicle has been towed or removed pursuant to sections
767 14-145 to 14-145c, inclusive, as amended by this act, and sections 3 and
768 4 of this act, it shall be released to its owner, a lending institution or a
769 person authorized by the owner or lending institution to regain
770 possession, upon demand, provided the demand is made between the
771 hours of 8:00 a.m. and [5:00] 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or at a
772 reasonable time on Saturday, Sunday or holidays and the owner or
773 authorized person presents proof of registration, the certificate of title,
774 the bill of sale, the lease for the motor vehicle or other reasonable proof
775 of ownership and pays the costs of towing or removal and of storage.
776 The wrecker service shall release the motor vehicle even if the address
777 on the proof of registration, certificate of title, bill of sale, lease for the
778 motor vehicle or other reasonable proof of ownership is different from
779 the current address of the owner or authorized person redeeming the
780 motor vehicle.

781 (c) The wrecker service shall accept such payment by cash or credit
782 card and maintain sufficient cash at the office of such wrecker service to

783 provide change to the owner or authorized person at the time of
784 payment. Such wrecker service may charge the owner or authorized
785 person a service fee for any such payment made by a credit card,
786 provided such service fee shall not exceed any charge by the credit card
787 issuer, including any discount rate.

788 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) Any vehicle owner, lending institution or agent of the owner
789 or lending institution, shall have the right to inspect the vehicle before
790 accepting its return. ~~[or removal of a wheel-locking device.]~~ No general
791 release of any kind that would release the ~~[person or firm towing,~~
792 ~~removing or storing the vehicle or rendering the vehicle immovable]~~
793 wrecker service from liability for damages or from liability for any claim
794 that the vehicle was towed ~~[or rendered immovable]~~ without
795 justification may be required from any vehicle owner, lending
796 institution or agent of the owner or lending institution, as a condition of
797 release of the vehicle. A receipt showing the name of the ~~[person or firm~~
798 ~~towing or removing the vehicle or rendering the vehicle immovable]~~
799 wrecker service and an itemization of the charges shall be provided to
800 the person paying the towing or removal and storage costs ~~[or the~~
801 ~~charge for removal of a wheel-locking device]~~ at the time of payment.

802 ~~(e)~~ A violation of the provisions of this subsection shall be deemed to
803 be an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section
804 42-110b.

805 Sec. 9. Section 14-150 of the general statutes is repealed and the
806 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

807 (a) Any person who abandons any motor vehicle within the limits of
808 any highway or upon property other than such person's own without
809 the consent of the owner thereof for a period longer than twenty-four
810 hours shall have committed an infraction and shall be fined not less than
811 eighty-five dollars. The last owner of record of a motor vehicle found
812 abandoned, as shown by the files of the Department of Motor Vehicles,
813 shall be deemed prima facie to have been the owner of such motor

814 vehicle at the time it was abandoned and the person who abandoned
815 the same or caused or procured its abandonment.

816 (b) Any inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles, any officer
817 attached to an organized police department, any enforcement officer of
818 a parking authority authorized under an ordinance adopted pursuant
819 to section 7-204a to enforce parking regulations in the municipality in
820 which it is located or any state police officer upon discovery of any
821 motor vehicle, whether situated within or without any highway of this
822 state, which such inspector or officer determines is a menace to traffic or
823 public health or safety, shall take such motor vehicle into such
824 inspector's or officer's custody and cause the same to be taken to and
825 stored in a suitable place.

826 (c) Any inspector of the Department of Motor Vehicles, any officer
827 attached to an organized police department, any enforcement officer of
828 a parking authority authorized under an ordinance adopted pursuant
829 to section 7-204a to enforce parking regulations in the municipality in
830 which it is located or any state police officer, upon discovery of any
831 motor vehicle which such inspector or officer determines to be
832 apparently abandoned or a motor vehicle without proper registration,
833 whether situated within or without any highway of this state, shall affix
834 to such motor vehicle a notification sticker in a manner so as to be
835 readily visible. This notification sticker shall contain the following
836 information: (1) The date and time the notification sticker was affixed to
837 the motor vehicle; (2) a statement that pursuant to this section, if the
838 motor vehicle is not removed within twenty-four hours of the time the
839 sticker was affixed, it shall be taken into custody and stored at the
840 owner's expense; (3) the location and telephone number where
841 additional information may be obtained; and (4) the identity of the
842 affixing officer. If the motor vehicle is not removed within such twenty-
843 four-hour period, the affixing department or parking authority shall
844 take such motor vehicle into its custody and cause the same to be stored
845 in a suitable place, except that such department or parking authority
846 shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the owner of any such motor

847 vehicle which is determined to be stolen prior to taking such vehicle into
848 its custody and shall allow such owner to make arrangements for
849 removal of such vehicle.

850 (d) If the motor vehicle has no registration marker plates or invalid
851 registration marker plates, and if such inspector or officer makes a
852 determination in good faith that (1) the motor vehicle is apparently
853 abandoned, (2) the retail market value of such motor vehicle in its
854 current condition, as stated in the National Automobile Dealers
855 Association Used Car Guide, Eastern Edition, is five hundred dollars or
856 less, and (3) the motor vehicle is so vandalized, damaged, or in disrepair
857 as to be unusable as a motor vehicle, title to such motor vehicle shall,
858 upon taking custody of such motor vehicle, immediately vest in the
859 municipality in which the motor vehicle was discovered. Within forty-
860 eight hours of the time that such motor vehicle is taken into custody, the
861 affixing department or parking authority shall notify the Commissioner
862 of Motor Vehicles, in writing, of the vehicle identification number and a
863 description of the motor vehicle and thereafter shall immediately sell or
864 transfer such motor vehicle to a recycler licensed in accordance with
865 section 14-67l. Upon sale or other disposition of the motor vehicle, the
866 affixing department or parking authority shall give written notice by
867 certified mail, return receipt requested, to the person who was the
868 owner of such motor vehicle at the time of abandonment, if known,
869 which notice shall state that the motor vehicle has been sold or
870 otherwise disposed of. The proceeds of the sale or disposition, or the fair
871 market value of the motor vehicle in its current condition, whichever is
872 greater, less the towing and sale or disposal expenses and the amount
873 of any fines due, shall be paid to such person or such person's
874 representatives, if claimed by such person or such person's
875 representatives within one year from the date of sale. If such balance is
876 not claimed within such period, it shall escheat to the municipality. If
877 the expenses incurred by the municipality for towing and the sale or
878 disposition of such motor vehicle and any such fines exceed the
879 proceeds of such sale or disposition, such person shall be liable to such

880 municipality for such excess amount.

881 (e) Within forty-eight hours of the time that a motor vehicle is taken
882 into custody and stored pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section,
883 the affixing department or parking authority shall give written notice
884 by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and any
885 lienholders of such motor vehicle, if such motor vehicle appears on the
886 records of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The notice shall state: (1)
887 That the motor vehicle has been taken into custody and stored, (2) the
888 location of storage of the motor vehicle, (3) that, unless title has already
889 vested in the municipality pursuant to subsection (d) of this section,
890 such motor vehicle may be sold [after (A) fifteen days if the market value
891 of such motor vehicle does not exceed one thousand five hundred
892 dollars, or (B) forty-five days if the value of such motor vehicle exceeds
893 one thousand five hundred dollars] pursuant to section 10 of this act,
894 and (4) that the owner has a right to contest the validity of such taking
895 by application, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor
896 Vehicles, to the hearing officer named in such notice within ten days
897 from the date of such notice. Such application forms shall be made
898 readily available to the public at all offices and on the Internet web site
899 of the Department of Motor Vehicles, parking authorities authorized
900 under an ordinance adopted pursuant to section 7-204a to enforce
901 parking regulations and state and local police departments.

902 (f) (1) The chief executive officer of each town shall appoint a suitable
903 person, who shall not be a member of any state or local police
904 department, to be a hearing officer to hear applications to determine
905 whether or not the towing within such municipality of such motor
906 vehicle was authorized under the provisions of this section. Two or
907 more towns may join in appointing such hearing officer; provided any
908 such hearing shall be held at a location which is as near to the town
909 within which such motor vehicle was towed as is reasonable and
910 practicable. The commissioner shall [establish by regulation] adopt
911 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish
912 the qualifications necessary for hearing officers and procedures for the

913 holding of such hearings. If it is determined at such hearing that the
914 vehicle was not a menace to traffic, abandoned or unregistered, as the
915 case may be, the owner of such motor vehicle shall not be liable for any
916 expenses incurred as a result of the taking and storage of such motor
917 vehicle, the lien provisions of this section shall not apply to such owner,
918 and the department which took and stored such motor vehicle shall be
919 liable for such expenses. If the owner, prior to such determination, pays
920 such expenses and the storage charges of such motor vehicle, and it is
921 determined at such hearing that the motor vehicle was not a menace to
922 traffic, abandoned or unregistered, as the case may be, the department
923 or parking authority which took such motor vehicle shall be liable to
924 such owner for the amount paid by such owner. Any person aggrieved
925 by the decision of such hearing officer may, within fifteen days of the
926 notice of such decision, appeal to the superior court for the judicial
927 district wherein such hearing was held.

928 (2) The chief executive officer of each municipality shall designate a
929 suitable person who shall be responsible for the collection of data
930 concerning abandoned motor vehicles within such municipality and the
931 preparation and submission of periodic reports to the Commissioner of
932 Motor Vehicles which shall contain such information as the
933 commissioner may require.

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

938 (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, if the current
939 market value of such motor vehicle as determined in good faith by such
940 owner or keeper does not exceed one thousand five hundred dollars and
941 such motor vehicle has been stored for a period of not less than fifteen
942 days, such owner or keeper shall, unless an application filed by the
943 owner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section is pending and the
944 owner of such motor vehicle has notified such owner or keeper that such

945 application for hearing has been filed, send a notice of intent to sell that
946 complies with subsection (h) of this section to the commissioner, the
947 owner of such motor vehicle and any known lienholder of record of
948 such motor vehicle within such period. Upon approval by the
949 commissioner of the notice of intent to sell, the commissioner shall issue
950 such owner or keeper an affidavit of compliance. Such owner or keeper
951 shall sell such motor vehicle not less than five business days after the
952 mailing date of the notice of intent to sell, and apply the proceeds of the
953 sale toward such owner's or keeper's towing and storage charges.

954 (2) If the current market value of such motor vehicle as determined
955 in good faith by such owner or keeper exceeds one thousand five
956 hundred dollars and if such motor vehicle has been stored for a period
957 of not less than forty-five days, such owner or keeper shall, unless an
958 application filed by the owner pursuant to subsection (e) of this section
959 is pending and the owner of such motor vehicle has notified such owner
960 or keeper that such application for hearing has been filed, send a notice
961 of intent to sell that complies with subsection (h) of this section to the
962 commissioner, the owner of such motor vehicle and any known
963 lienholder of record of such motor vehicle within such period. Upon
964 approval by the commissioner of the notice of intent to sell, the
965 commissioner shall issue such owner or keeper an affidavit of
966 compliance. Such owner or keeper shall sell such motor vehicle at public
967 auction for cash, at such owner's or keeper's place of business not less
968 than five business days after the mailing date of the notice of intent to
969 sell. Such owner or keeper shall apply the proceeds of such sale toward
970 the payment of such owner's or keeper's towing and storage charges and
971 the payment of any debt or obligation incurred by the officer who placed
972 such motor vehicle in storage. At any public auction held pursuant to
973 this subsection, such owner or keeper may set a minimum bid equal to
974 the amount of such owner's or keeper's charges and obligations with
975 respect to the tow and storage of the motor vehicle. If no such bid is
976 made, such owner or keeper may sell or dispose of such vehicle.

977 (h) The notice of intent to sell described in subsection (g) of this

978 section shall include the make, model and vehicle identification number
979 of such motor vehicle, the date such motor vehicle was left with the
980 owner or keeper of the garage for storage and by whom and the
981 registration number thereof if any number plates are on such motor
982 vehicle, and shall be placed on file by the commissioner and subject to
983 public inspection. The notice of intent to sell shall be accompanied by a
984 statement to the owner and known lienholder of such motor vehicle
985 indicating the date, time and place of the sale of such motor vehicle, and
986 the manner of the sale, as specified in subdivision (1) or (2) of subsection
987 (g) of this section. Such owner or keeper shall give such notice and
988 accompanying statement to such motor vehicle owner and lienholder
989 by certified mail, return receipt requested. Such statement shall indicate
990 that any proceeds in excess of such owner's or keeper's charges and
991 obligations may be claimed by the owner of such motor vehicle within
992 one year from the date of such sale. The fee for filing such notice of intent
993 and accompanying statement shall be ten dollars. Any sale under the
994 provisions of this section shall be void, unless such owner or keeper
995 provides the notice required by this section.

996 (i) At the time of a sale conducted under subsection (g) of this section,
997 such owner or keeper shall provide the purchaser of such motor vehicle
998 with the affidavit of compliance issued by the commissioner. Except for
999 a thirty-day period immediately following the date such motor vehicle
1000 was placed in storage under subdivision (1) of subsection (g) of this
1001 section, or a sixty-day period immediately following the date such
1002 motor vehicle was placed in storage under subdivision (2) of subsection
1003 (g) of this section, the commissioner may limit the number of days that
1004 such owner or keeper may charge for storage of the motor vehicle prior
1005 to the time such motor vehicle was sold unless such owner or keeper
1006 provides evidence to the commissioner that the storage charges accrued
1007 as a result of such owner or keeper's reliance upon statements or
1008 representations made by the owner or lienholder of the motor vehicle or
1009 as a result of such owner's or keeper's good faith effort to negotiate the
1010 return of such motor vehicle to such owner or lienholder.

1011 (j) The owner or keeper of such garage shall report the sales price,
1012 storing, towing and repair charges, if any; buyer's name and address;
1013 identification of the vehicle and such other information as may be
1014 required in regulations adopted pursuant to this section, to the
1015 commissioner within fifteen days after the sale of the motor vehicle. The
1016 proceeds of such sale, after deducting the amount due such owner or
1017 keeper and all expenses connected with such sale, including the
1018 expenses of the officer who placed such motor vehicle in storage, shall
1019 be paid to the owner of such motor vehicle or such owner's legal
1020 representatives, if claimed by such owner or such owner's legal
1021 representatives at any time within one year from the date of such sale.
1022 If such balance is not claimed within said period, it shall escheat to the
1023 state.

1024 (k) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in
1025 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to carry out the purposes
1026 of this section. The regulations shall (1) specify the circumstances under
1027 which title to any motor vehicle abandoned within the limits of any
1028 highway may be transferred to any person, firm or corporation towing
1029 such vehicle, (2) establish the procedure whereby such person, firm or
1030 corporation may obtain title to such motor vehicle, and (3) specify the
1031 circumstances under which the owner of a campground may dispose of
1032 a motor home or recreational vehicle abandoned on such owner's
1033 property and establishing procedures governing such disposal.]

1034 Sec. 10. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) Any wrecker service,
1035 bailee for hire or owner or keeper of any garage, storage facility or other
1036 place where a motor vehicle is stored shall have a lien upon such motor
1037 vehicle for towing or storage charges, or both, imposed by such wrecker
1038 service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper that result from towing or
1039 storing a motor vehicle.

1040 (b) (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of section 14-150 of the
1041 general statutes, as amended by this act, if such wrecker service, bailee
1042 for hire or owner or keeper makes a determination in good faith that the

1043 retail market value of the stored motor vehicle does not exceed one
1044 thousand five hundred dollars, as stated in the applicable National
1045 Automobile Dealers Association Used Car Guide, Eastern Edition, and
1046 such stored motor vehicle has been stored for a period of not less fifteen
1047 days, such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall,
1048 unless an application filed by the owner of such motor vehicle pursuant
1049 to subsection (f) of section 14-150 of the general statutes, as amended by
1050 this act, is pending, send a notice of intent to sell that complies with
1051 subsection (d) of this section to the owner of such motor vehicle and any
1052 known lienholder of record of such motor vehicle within such period.

1053 (2) If the current market value of such motor vehicle as determined
1054 in good faith by such owner or keeper exceeds one thousand five
1055 hundred dollars and if such motor vehicle has been stored for a period
1056 of not less than forty-five days, such owner or keeper shall, unless an
1057 application filed by the owner pursuant to subsection (f) of section 14-
1058 150 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, is pending and the
1059 owner of such motor vehicle has notified such wrecker service, bailee
1060 for hire or owner or keeper that such application for hearing has been
1061 filed, send a notice of intent to sell that complies with subsection (c) of
1062 this section to the owner of such motor vehicle and any known
1063 lienholder of record of such motor vehicle within such period.

1064 (3) When determining the retail market value of the stored motor
1065 vehicle, such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall
1066 presume a stored motor vehicle to be in good working order, unless
1067 such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper submits
1068 evidence to the commissioner demonstrating that such motor vehicle is
1069 not in good working order. Lack of access to a key to such stored motor
1070 vehicle shall not be considered evidence that a motor vehicle is not in
1071 good working order.

1072 (c) (1) The notice of intent to sell described in subsection (b) of this
1073 section shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) the make, model
1074 and vehicle identification number of the stored motor vehicle, (B) the

1075 date such motor vehicle was left with such wrecker service, bailee for
1076 hire or owner or keeper and by whom, (C) the registration number if
1077 any number plates are on such motor vehicle, (D) the retail market value
1078 of such motor vehicle as determined by the wrecker service, bailee for
1079 hire or owner or keeper, and (E) a statement to the owner and known
1080 lienholder that (i) the stored motor vehicle will be sold at a public
1081 auction if not redeemed in a timely manner, (ii) such motor vehicle may
1082 be redeemed until the point-of-sale at the public auction, and (iii) any
1083 proceeds of such sale, after deducting the amount due to such wrecker
1084 service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper and all expenses connected
1085 with such sale, will be mailed after such sale. Such wrecker service,
1086 bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall provide such notice and a copy
1087 of the consumer bill of rights regarding towing, developed pursuant to
1088 section 5 of this act, to the motor vehicle owner and lienholder by
1089 certified mail, return receipt requested.

1090 (2) Such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall also
1091 provide a copy of the notice of intent to sell to the Commissioner of
1092 Motor Vehicles, in a form and manner determined by the commissioner.
1093 Such notice shall be accompanied by a filing fee of ten dollars and any
1094 other information, such as photographs of the stored motor vehicle, that
1095 the commissioner may prescribe. Such notice of intent shall be subject
1096 to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in
1097 section 1-200 of the general statutes. The commissioner may send a copy
1098 of such notice electronically to the owner or lienholder of such motor
1099 vehicle.

1100 (3) Any sale of a stored motor vehicle under the provisions of this
1101 section shall be void, unless such wrecker service, bailee for hire or
1102 owner or keeper provides the notice required by this subsection.

1103 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to sell, the commissioner shall
1104 review such notice and determine if the owner of the motor vehicle has
1105 filed a customer complaint concerning such wrecker service, bailee for
1106 hire or owner or keeper pursuant to section 14-63 of the general statutes,

1107 as amended by this act. The commissioner shall not approve such notice
1108 until any such customer complaint is resolved. If the commissioner
1109 approves such notice, the commissioner shall issue such wrecker
1110 service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper an affidavit of compliance.

1111 (e) Upon receipt of an affidavit of compliance by the commissioner,
1112 such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall (1) mail a
1113 notice of sale date to the motor vehicle owner and known lienholder by
1114 certified mail, return receipt requested, that indicates the date, time and
1115 place of the sale of such motor vehicle, and (2) advertise the sale of such
1116 motor vehicle in a commercially reasonable manner. For the purposes
1117 of this subdivision, an advertisement is deemed commercially
1118 reasonable if at least three bids are received at the public auction or the
1119 successful bid at the public auction is equal to the retail market value of
1120 such motor vehicle as stated in the applicable National Automobile
1121 Dealers Association Used Car Guide, Eastern Edition.

1122 (f) Not less than five business days after the mailing date of the notice
1123 of sale date, such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper may
1124 sell such motor vehicle at public auction for cash at the place of business
1125 of such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper. Such wrecker
1126 service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall apply the proceeds of
1127 such sale toward the payment of such wrecker service, bailee for hire or
1128 owner or keeper's towing and storage charges. At any public auction
1129 held pursuant to this subsection, such wrecker service, bailee for hire or
1130 owner or keeper may set a minimum bid equal to the amount of such
1131 towing and storage charges.

1132 (g) At the time of a sale conducted under subsection (f) of this section,
1133 such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall provide
1134 the purchaser of such motor vehicle with the affidavit of compliance
1135 issued by the commissioner. Except for a thirty-day period immediately
1136 following the date such motor vehicle was placed in storage under
1137 subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section, or a sixty-day period
1138 immediately following the date such motor vehicle was placed in

1139 storage under subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section, the
1140 commissioner may limit the number of days that such wrecker service,
1141 bailee for hire or owner or keeper may charge for storage of the motor
1142 vehicle prior to the time such motor vehicle was sold unless such
1143 wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper provides evidence to
1144 the commissioner that the storage charges accrued as a result of such
1145 wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper's reliance upon
1146 statements or representations made by the owner or lienholder of the
1147 motor vehicle or as a result of a good faith effort by such wrecker service,
1148 bailee for hire or owner or keeper to negotiate the return of such motor
1149 vehicle to such owner or lienholder.

1150 (h) Not later than fifteen days after the sale of a motor vehicle
1151 pursuant to the provisions of this section, such wrecker service, bailee
1152 for hire or owner or keeper of such garage shall (1) report the sales price,
1153 storing, towing and repair charges, if any, the buyer's name and address,
1154 identification of the vehicle and such other information as may be
1155 required in regulations adopted pursuant to section 11 of this act, to the
1156 commissioner, and (2) send by certified mail, return receipt requested,
1157 the proceeds of such sale, after deducting the amount due to such
1158 wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper and all expenses
1159 connected with such sale, to the owner of such motor vehicle, unless the
1160 owner or such owner's legal representative has retrieved the proceeds
1161 in person or the known lienholder has provided evidence of an
1162 entitlement to part or all of such sale proceeds. If such wrecker service,
1163 bailee for hire or owner or keeper received a notification from the post
1164 office that any prior notices to the owner of the motor vehicle were
1165 unable to be delivered, such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or
1166 keeper shall confirm the owner's address with the commissioner prior
1167 to mailing such sale proceeds. Such wrecker service, bailee for hire or
1168 owner or keeper shall provide notice to the commissioner, in a form and
1169 manner determined by the commissioner, that such sale proceeds have
1170 been mailed. If such sale proceeds are not claimed within one year from
1171 the date of such sale, such sale proceeds shall escheat to the state as

1172 unclaimed property and the wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or
1173 keeper shall be subject to the requirements of part III of chapter 32 of the
1174 general statutes, including all obligations of a holder of unclaimed
1175 property. Not later than ten days after filing any report and escheating
1176 any funds as required by part III of chapter 32 of the general statutes,
1177 such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or keeper shall provide
1178 evidence to the commissioner, in a form and manner determined by the
1179 commissioner, that such report was submitted and funds have
1180 escheated.

1181 (i) In no event shall such wrecker service, bailee for hire or owner or
1182 keeper sell a motor vehicle that has not been (1) stored for at least thirty
1183 days if the retail market value of such motor vehicle does not exceed one
1184 thousand five hundred dollars, as stated in the applicable National
1185 Automobile Dealers Association Used Car Guide, Eastern Edition, or (2)
1186 stored for at least sixty days if the retail market value of such motor
1187 vehicle exceeds one thousand five hundred dollars, as stated in such
1188 used car guide. A violation of the provisions of this subdivision shall be
1189 a class B misdemeanor.

1190 (j) Except as provided in subsection (i) of this section, a violation of
1191 the provisions of this section shall be deemed to be an unfair or
1192 deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of section 42-110b of the
1193 general statutes.

1194 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) The Commissioner of Motor
1195 Vehicles shall adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of
1196 chapter 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the purposes of section
1197 14-150 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and section 10 of
1198 this act. The regulations shall (1) specify the circumstances under which
1199 title to any motor vehicle abandoned within the limits of any highway
1200 may be transferred to the wrecker service, (2) establish the procedure
1201 whereby such wrecker service may obtain title to such motor vehicle,
1202 and (3) specify the circumstances under which the owner of a
1203 campground may dispose of a motor home or recreational vehicle

1204 abandoned on such owner's property and establishing procedures
1205 governing such disposal.

1206 Sec. 12. Section 29-23a of the general statutes is repealed and the
1207 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1208 (a) The Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
1209 Services and Public Protection [may] shall establish, within its patrol
1210 jurisdiction, a rotational system for summoning [licensed wrecker
1211 operators] wrecker services for the purpose of towing or transporting
1212 motor vehicles which are disabled, inoperative or wrecked in the event
1213 the owners or operators of such vehicles are incapacitated, unavailable
1214 or leave the procurement of wrecker service to the officer at the scene of
1215 an accident or the location of a disabled vehicle. Any such [licensee]
1216 wrecker service may participate in such system, provided (1) [his
1217 operators fulfill] such wrecker service fulfills certain qualifications,
1218 including certification by the Towing and Recovery Association of
1219 America or a certification program approved by the Commissioner of
1220 Emergency Services and Public Protection, and [his] the wrecker
1221 service's equipment meets safety and mechanical standards established
1222 by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection and
1223 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and (2) [his] the wrecker service's
1224 business is located so as to provide prompt and efficient service.

1225 (b) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
1226 shall grant variations or exemptions from, or approve equivalent or
1227 alternate compliance with, the provisions of this section where strict
1228 compliance with such provisions would entail practical difficulty or
1229 unnecessary hardship or is otherwise adjudged unwarranted, provided
1230 any such variation, exemption, approved equivalent or alternate
1231 compliance shall, in the opinion of said commissioner, secure the public
1232 safety.

1233 (c) The Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection
1234 shall adopt regulations in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54

1235 concerning the operation of such rotational system and the removal
1236 from the system of wrecker services which fail to comply with the
1237 requirements specified in such regulations or any provision of the
1238 general statutes or a regulation concerning the operation of a motor
1239 vehicle repair, towing or storage facility or the operation of a motor
1240 vehicle.

1241 Sec. 13. Subsection (b) of section 14-66c of the general statutes is
1242 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*
1243 *1, 2025*):

1244 (b) If any motorized personal property is towed or otherwise
1245 removed by a wrecker [licensed under section 14-66] service, at the
1246 direction of an officer attached to an organized police department or an
1247 owner of real property where such personal property has been
1248 abandoned, such property shall be taken to and stored in a suitable
1249 place. Within forty-eight hours following the time that such property is
1250 taken into custody, the [licensee or operator of the] wrecker service shall
1251 give written notice by certified mail to the owner, if known, (1) that such
1252 property has been taken and stored, and (2) of the location of such
1253 property. Such [licensee or operator] wrecker service shall have a lien
1254 upon the same for towing or removal charges and storage charges. If
1255 such owner does not claim such property, or if the owner of such
1256 property is not known, the [licensee or operator of the] wrecker service
1257 may sell or dispose of such property after thirty days, subject to any
1258 provision of the general statutes, or any regulation adopted thereunder,
1259 concerning the sale or disposal of such property.

1260 Sec. 14. Section 14-145c of the general statutes is repealed and the
1261 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1262 Whenever an owner or lessee of private property or a lending
1263 institution, or such owner's, lessee's or institution's agent, improperly
1264 causes a motor vehicle to be towed or removed from such property, [or
1265 rendered immovable on such property,] the owner or lessee of the

1266 property or the lending institution shall be liable to the owner of the
1267 vehicle for the costs of towing or removal and of storage of the vehicle
1268 [or for fees charged for removing a wheel-locking device,] and for
1269 reasonable attorney's fees and court costs, if applicable.

1270 Sec. 15. Section 14-145d of the general statutes is repealed and the
1271 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1272 (a) Any person, firm or corporation that engages in rendering motor
1273 vehicles immovable through the use of wheel-locking or similar devices
1274 and is hired by an [owner or lessee of private property] independent
1275 institution of higher education, as defined in subsection (a) of section
1276 10a-173, or a private secondary school to render unauthorized motor
1277 vehicles immovable on such [owner or lessee's] institution or school's
1278 private property shall, five business days prior to taking such action
1279 within a municipality, notify the chief of police of the local police
1280 department of such municipality of such activities. Such notification
1281 shall be in the form and manner directed by the chief of police.

1282 (b) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall, for a
1283 first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction and be fined
1284 fifty dollars and, for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not less than
1285 fifty dollars and not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for
1286 not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned.

1287 Sec. 16. Section 14-66b of the general statutes is repealed and the
1288 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1289 (a) Each owner of a wrecker registered pursuant to subsection (c) of
1290 section 14-66, as amended by this act, shall keep and maintain a record
1291 stating the following information: (1) The registration number of each
1292 motor vehicle towed or transported and the registration number of each
1293 wrecker used to tow or transport such motor vehicle; (2) the date and
1294 time the tow commenced and was completed; (3) the location from
1295 which the disabled motor vehicle was towed and the destination of such
1296 tow; (4) the mileage of the wrecker at the commencement and

1297 completion of the tow; (5) the charge for tow service and any other
1298 charges incurred for services related to such tow; (6) the name and
1299 address of the person requesting tow service; (7) the written
1300 authorization to tow the motor vehicle as described in subsection (c) of
1301 section 14-145a, as amended by this act; (8) photographs of the motor
1302 vehicle taken pursuant to subsection (d) of section 14-145a, as amended
1303 by this act; and [(7)] (9) any other information the commissioner deems
1304 necessary, specified in regulations adopted in accordance with the
1305 provisions of chapter 54. Such records shall be retained at the place of
1306 business of the wrecker service for a period of two years and shall be
1307 available for inspection during regular business hours by any law
1308 enforcement officer or inspector designated by the Commissioner of
1309 Motor Vehicles.

1310 **(b)** Each owner of a wrecker shall also keep and maintain copies of
1311 any written contracts with owners or lessees of property authorizing the
1312 towing or removal of motor vehicles from the property of such owner
1313 or lessee, or with lending institutions repossessing any motor vehicles,
1314 as provided in section 14-145, as amended by this act, and such contracts
1315 shall be available for inspection by motor vehicle owners, agents of the
1316 owners, or lending institutions, upon request.

1317 **(c)** The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may permit any licensed
1318 motor vehicle dealer or repairer who operates a wrecker service to
1319 maintain, in an electronic format prescribed by the commissioner, all
1320 records, photographs, documents and forms required by the
1321 Department of Motor Vehicles. Such records, photographs, documents
1322 and forms shall be produced in written format, upon request by the
1323 department, during the licensee's business hours on the same day of
1324 such request.

1325 **(d)** Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be
1326 deemed to have committed an infraction.

1327 Sec. 17. Section 14-51a of the general statutes is repealed and the

1328 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1329 The commissioner may, after notice and hearing, impose a civil
1330 penalty of not more than [one] five thousand dollars on any person, firm
1331 or corporation who violates any provision of sections 14-54 to 14-67a,
1332 inclusive, or of not more than two thousand dollars on any person, firm
1333 or corporation who violates section 14-52.

1334 Sec. 18. Section 14-64 of the general statutes is repealed and the
1335 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1336 The commissioner may suspend or revoke the license or licenses of
1337 any licensee or impose a civil penalty of not more than [one] five
1338 thousand dollars for each violation on any licensee or both, when, after
1339 notice and hearing, the commissioner finds that the licensee (1) has
1340 violated any provision of any statute or regulation of any state or any
1341 federal statute or regulation pertaining to its business as a licensee or
1342 has failed to comply with the terms of a final decision and order of any
1343 state department or federal agency concerning any such provision; [or]
1344 (2) has failed to maintain such records of transactions concerning the
1345 purchase, sale or repair of motor vehicles or major component parts, as
1346 required by such regulations as shall be adopted by the commissioner,
1347 for a period of two years after such purchase, sale or repairs, provided
1348 the records shall include the vehicle identification number and the name
1349 and address of the person from whom each vehicle or part was
1350 purchased and to whom each vehicle or part was sold, if a sale occurred;
1351 [or] (3) has failed to allow inspection of such records by the
1352 commissioner or the commissioner's representative during normal
1353 business hours, provided written notice stating the purpose of the
1354 inspection is furnished to the licensee, or has failed to allow inspection
1355 of such records by any representative of the Division of State Police
1356 within the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection or
1357 any organized local police department, which inspection may include
1358 examination of the premises to determine the accuracy of such records;
1359 [or] (4) has made a false statement as to the condition, prior ownership

1360 or prior use of any motor vehicle sold, exchanged, transferred, offered
 1361 for sale or repaired if the licensee knew or should have known that such
 1362 statement was false; [or] (5) is not qualified to conduct the licensed
 1363 business, applying the standards of section 14-51 and the applicable
 1364 regulations; [or] (6) has violated any provision of sections 42-221 to 42-
 1365 226, inclusive; [or] (7) has failed to fully execute or provide the buyer
 1366 with (A) an order as described in section 14-62, (B) the properly assigned
 1367 certificate of title, or (C) a temporary transfer or new issue of
 1368 registration; [or] (8) has failed to deliver a motor vehicle free and clear
 1369 of all liens, unless written notification is given to the buyer stating such
 1370 motor vehicle shall be purchased subject to a lien; [or] (9) has violated
 1371 any provision of sections 14-65f to 14-65j, inclusive, and section 14-65l;
 1372 [or] (10) has used registration number plates issued by the
 1373 commissioner, in violation of the provisions and standards set forth in
 1374 sections 14-59 and 14-60 and the applicable regulations; [or] (11) has
 1375 failed to secure or to account for or surrender to the commissioner on
 1376 demand official registration plates or any other official materials in its
 1377 custody; or (12) has been convicted, or if the licensee is a firm or
 1378 corporation, an officer or major stockholder has been convicted, of a
 1379 violation of any provision of laws pertaining to the business of a motor
 1380 vehicle dealer or repairer including a motor vehicle recycler, or of any
 1381 violation involving fraud, larceny or deprivation or misappropriation of
 1382 property, in the courts of the United States or of any state, or has failed
 1383 to make full disclosure of any such conviction. In addition to, or in lieu
 1384 of, the imposition of any other penalties authorized by this section, the
 1385 commissioner may order any such licensee to make restitution to any
 1386 aggrieved customer.

1387 Sec. 19. Section 14-1 of the general statutes is repealed and the
 1388 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

1389 Terms used in this chapter shall be construed as follows, unless
 1390 another construction is clearly apparent from the language or context in
 1391 which the term is used or unless the construction is inconsistent with
 1392 the manifest intention of the General Assembly:

1393 (1) "Activity vehicle" means a student transportation vehicle that is
1394 used to transport students in connection with school-sponsored events
1395 and activities, but is not used to transport students to and from school;

1396 (2) "Agricultural tractor" means a tractor or other form of
1397 nonmuscular motive power used for transporting, hauling, plowing,
1398 cultivating, planting, harvesting, reaping or other agricultural purposes
1399 on any farm or other private property, or used for the purpose of
1400 transporting, from one farm to another, agricultural implements and
1401 farm products, provided the agricultural tractor is not used on any
1402 highway for transporting a pay load or for some other commercial
1403 purpose;

1404 (3) "Antique, rare or special interest motor vehicle" means a motor
1405 vehicle twenty years old or older which is being preserved because of
1406 historic interest and which is not altered or modified from the original
1407 manufacturer's specifications;

1408 (4) "Apparent candle power" means an illumination equal to the
1409 normal illumination in foot candles produced by any lamp or lamps,
1410 divided by the square of the distance in feet between the lamp or lamps
1411 and the point at which the measurement is made;

1412 (5) "Authorized emergency vehicle" means (A) a fire department
1413 vehicle, (B) a police vehicle, or (C) an authorized emergency medical
1414 services vehicle, as defined in section 19a-175;

1415 (6) "Autocycle" means a motor vehicle that meets the requirements of
1416 a motorcycle under 49 CFR Part 571, and (A) does not have more than
1417 three wheels in contact with the ground, (B) is designed to be controlled
1418 with a steering mechanism and foot pedals for acceleration, braking or
1419 shifting, (C) has a seat or seats that are fully or partially enclosed and in
1420 which the occupants sit with their legs forward, and (D) is equipped
1421 with safety belts, in accordance with section 14-100a, for all occupants;

1422 (7) "Auxiliary driving lamp" means an additional lighting device on

1423 a motor vehicle used primarily to supplement the general illumination
1424 in front of a motor vehicle provided by the motor vehicle's head lamps;

1425 (8) "Bulb" means a light source consisting of a glass bulb containing a
1426 filament or substance capable of being electrically maintained at
1427 incandescence;

1428 (9) "Camp trailer" includes any trailer designed for living or sleeping
1429 purposes and used exclusively for camping or recreational purposes;

1430 (10) "Camp trailer registration" means the type of registration issued
1431 to any trailer that is for nonbusiness use and is limited to camp trailers
1432 and utility trailers;

1433 (11) "Camp vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is regularly used
1434 to transport persons under eighteen years of age in connection with the
1435 activities of any youth camp, as defined in section 19a-420;

1436 (12) "Camper" means any motor vehicle designed or permanently
1437 altered in such a way as to provide temporary living quarters for travel,
1438 camping or recreational purposes;

1439 (13) "Class 1 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with
1440 a motor that engages only when the rider operates the electric bicycle's
1441 foot pedals, and disengages when the rider stops pedaling or such
1442 electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty miles per hour;

1443 (14) "Class 2 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with
1444 a motor that may be used exclusively to propel the electric bicycle, and
1445 disengages when the brakes are applied or such electric bicycle reaches
1446 the speed of twenty miles per hour;

1447 (15) "Class 3 electric bicycle" means an electric bicycle equipped with
1448 a motor that engages only when the rider operates the electric bicycle's
1449 foot pedals, and disengages when the rider stops pedaling or such
1450 electric bicycle reaches the speed of twenty-eight miles per hour;

1451 (16) "Combination registration" means the type of registration issued
1452 to a motor vehicle used for both private passenger and commercial
1453 purposes if such vehicle does not have a gross vehicle weight rating in
1454 excess of twelve thousand five hundred pounds;

1455 (17) "Commercial driver's license" or "CDL" means a license issued to
1456 an individual in accordance with the provisions of sections 14-44a to 14-
1457 44m, inclusive, which authorizes such individual to drive a commercial
1458 motor vehicle;

1459 (18) "Commercial driver's license information system" or "CDLIS"
1460 means the national database of holders of commercial driver's licenses
1461 established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
1462 pursuant to Section 12007 of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act
1463 of 1986;

1464 (19) "Commercial motor vehicle" means a vehicle designed or used to
1465 transport passengers or property, except a vehicle used for farming
1466 purposes in accordance with 49 CFR 383.3(d), fire fighting apparatus or
1467 an emergency vehicle, as defined in section 14-283, or a recreational
1468 vehicle in private use, which (A) has a gross vehicle weight rating of
1469 twenty-six thousand and one pounds or more, or a gross combination
1470 weight rating of twenty-six thousand and one pounds or more, inclusive
1471 of a towed unit or units with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than
1472 ten thousand pounds; (B) is designed to transport sixteen or more
1473 passengers, including the driver, or is designed to transport more than
1474 ten passengers, including the driver, and is used to transport students
1475 under the age of twenty-one years to and from school; or (C) is
1476 transporting hazardous materials and is required to be placarded in
1477 accordance with 49 CFR 172, Subpart F, as amended, or any quantity of
1478 a material listed as a select agent or toxin in 42 CFR Part 73;

1479 (20) "Commercial registration" means the type of registration
1480 required for any motor vehicle designed or used to transport
1481 merchandise, freight or persons in connection with any business

1482 enterprise, unless a more specific type of registration is authorized and
1483 issued by the commissioner for such class of vehicle;

1484 (21) "Commercial trailer" means a trailer used in the conduct of a
1485 business to transport freight, materials or equipment whether or not
1486 permanently affixed to the bed of the trailer;

1487 (22) "Commercial trailer registration" means the type of registration
1488 issued to any commercial trailer;

1489 (23) "Commissioner" includes the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
1490 and any assistant to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles who is
1491 designated and authorized by, and who is acting for, the Commissioner
1492 of Motor Vehicles under a designation; except that the deputy
1493 commissioners of motor vehicles and the Attorney General are deemed,
1494 unless the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles otherwise provides, to be
1495 designated and authorized by, and acting for, the Commissioner of
1496 Motor Vehicles under a designation;

1497 (24) "Controlled substance" has the same meaning as provided in
1498 section 21a-240 and the federal laws and regulations incorporated in
1499 chapter 420b;

1500 (25) "Conviction" means an unvacated adjudication of guilt, or a
1501 determination that a person has violated or failed to comply with the
1502 law in a court of original jurisdiction or an authorized administrative
1503 tribunal, an unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure
1504 the person's appearance in court, the payment of a fine or court cost, or
1505 violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of whether or
1506 not the penalty is rebated, suspended or probated;

1507 (26) "Dealer" includes any person actively engaged in buying, selling
1508 or exchanging motor vehicles or trailers who has an established place of
1509 business in this state and who may, incidental to such business, repair
1510 motor vehicles or trailers, or cause them to be repaired by persons in his
1511 or her employ;

1512 (27) "Disqualification" means a withdrawal of the privilege to drive a
1513 commercial motor vehicle, which occurs as a result of (A) any
1514 suspension, revocation, or cancellation by the commissioner of the
1515 privilege to operate a motor vehicle; (B) a determination by the Federal
1516 Highway Administration, under the rules of practice for motor carrier
1517 safety contained in 49 CFR 386, as amended from time to time, that a
1518 person is no longer qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle
1519 under the standards set forth in 49 CFR 391, as amended from time to
1520 time; or (C) the loss of qualification which follows any of the convictions
1521 or administrative actions specified in section 14-44k;

1522 (28) "Drive" means to drive, operate or be in physical control of a
1523 motor vehicle, including a motor vehicle being towed by another;

1524 (29) "Driver" means any person who drives, operates or is in physical
1525 control of a commercial motor vehicle, or who is required to hold a
1526 commercial driver's license;

1527 (30) "Driver's license" or "operator's license" means a valid
1528 Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license or a license issued by
1529 another state or foreign jurisdiction authorizing the holder thereof to
1530 operate a motor vehicle on the highways;

1531 (31) "Electric bicycle" means a bicycle equipped with operable foot
1532 pedals and an electric motor of fewer than seven hundred fifty watts of
1533 power that is either a class 1, class 2 or class 3 bicycle. "Electric bicycle"
1534 does not include a dirt bike or an all-terrain vehicle;

1535 (32) "Electric foot scooter" means a device (A) that weighs not more
1536 than seventy-five pounds, (B) that has two or three wheels, handlebars
1537 and a floorboard that can be stood upon while riding, (C) that is
1538 powered by an electric motor and human power, and (D) whose
1539 maximum speed, with or without human propulsion on a paved level
1540 surface, is not more than twenty miles per hour;

1541 (33) "Employee" means any operator of a commercial motor vehicle,

1542 including full-time, regularly employed drivers, casual, intermittent or
1543 occasional drivers, drivers under contract and independent owner-
1544 operator contractors, who, while in the course of operating a commercial
1545 motor vehicle, are either directly employed by, or are under contract to,
1546 an employer;

1547 (34) "Employer" means any person, including the United States, a
1548 state or any political subdivision thereof, who owns or leases a
1549 commercial motor vehicle, or assigns a person to drive a commercial
1550 motor vehicle;

1551 (35) "Farm implement" means a vehicle designed and adapted
1552 exclusively for agricultural, horticultural or livestock-raising operations
1553 and which is not operated on a highway for transporting a pay load or
1554 for any other commercial purpose;

1555 (36) "Felony" means any offense, as defined in section 53a-25 and
1556 includes any offense designated as a felony under federal law;

1557 (37) "Fatality" means the death of a person as a result of a motor
1558 vehicle accident;

1559 (38) "Foreign jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction other than a state of
1560 the United States;

1561 (39) "Fuels" means (A) all products commonly or commercially
1562 known or sold as gasoline, including casinghead and absorption or
1563 natural gasoline, regardless of their classification or uses, (B) any liquid
1564 prepared, advertised, offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and
1565 commercially used, as a fuel in internal combustion engines, which,
1566 when subjected to distillation in accordance with the standard method
1567 of test for distillation of gasoline, naphtha, kerosene and similar
1568 petroleum products by "American Society for Testing Materials Method
1569 D-86", shows not less than ten per cent distilled (recovered) below 347°
1570 Fahrenheit (175° Centigrade) and not less than ninety-five per cent
1571 distilled (recovered) below 464° Fahrenheit (240° Centigrade); provided

1572 the term "fuels" does not include commercial solvents or naphthas
1573 which distill, by "American Society for Testing Materials Method D-86",
1574 not more than nine per cent at 176° Fahrenheit and which have a
1575 distillation range of 150° Fahrenheit, or less, or liquefied gases which
1576 would not exist as liquids at a temperature of 60° Fahrenheit and a
1577 pressure of 14.7 pounds per square inch absolute, and (C) any liquid
1578 commonly referred to as "gasohol" which is prepared, advertised,
1579 offered for sale or sold for use, or commonly and commercially used, as
1580 a fuel in internal combustion engines, consisting of a blend of gasoline
1581 and a minimum of ten per cent by volume of ethyl or methyl alcohol;

1582 (40) "Garage" includes every place of business where motor vehicles
1583 are, for compensation, received for housing, storage or repair;

1584 (41) "Gross vehicle weight rating" or "GVWR" means the value
1585 specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a
1586 single or a combination (articulated) vehicle. The GVWR of a
1587 combination (articulated) vehicle commonly referred to as the "gross
1588 combination weight rating" or GCWR is the GVWR of the power unit
1589 plus the GVWR of the towed unit or units;

1590 (42) "Gross weight" means the light weight of a vehicle plus the
1591 weight of any load on the vehicle, provided, in the case of a tractor-
1592 trailer unit, "gross weight" means the light weight of the tractor plus the
1593 light weight of the trailer or semitrailer plus the weight of the load on
1594 the vehicle;

1595 (43) "Hazardous materials" has the same meaning as provided in 49
1596 CFR 383.5;

1597 (44) "Head lamp" means a lighting device affixed to the front of a
1598 motor vehicle projecting a high intensity beam which lights the road in
1599 front of the vehicle so that it can proceed safely during the hours of
1600 darkness;

1601 (45) "High-mileage vehicle" means a motor vehicle having the

1602 following characteristics: (A) Not less than three wheels in contact with
1603 the ground; (B) a completely enclosed seat on which the driver sits; (C)
1604 a single or two cylinder, gasoline or diesel engine or an electric-powered
1605 engine; and (D) efficient fuel consumption;

1606 (46) "Highway" includes any state or other public highway, road,
1607 street, avenue, alley, driveway, parkway, place or dedicated roadway
1608 for bus rapid transit service, under the control of the state or any
1609 political subdivision of the state, dedicated, appropriated or opened to
1610 public travel or other use;

1611 (47) "Imminent hazard" means the existence of a condition that
1612 presents a substantial likelihood that death, serious illness, severe
1613 personal injury or a substantial endangerment to health, property, or the
1614 environment may occur before the reasonably foreseeable completion
1615 date of a formal proceeding begun to lessen the risk of that death, illness,
1616 injury or endangerment;

1617 (48) "Intersecting highway" includes any public highway which joins
1618 another at an angle whether or not it crosses the other;

1619 (49) "Light weight" means the weight of an unloaded motor vehicle
1620 as ordinarily equipped and ready for use, exclusive of the weight of the
1621 operator of the motor vehicle;

1622 (50) "Limited access highway" means a state highway so designated
1623 under the provisions of section 13b-27;

1624 (51) "Local authorities" includes the board of aldermen, common
1625 council, chief of police, warden and burgesses, board of selectmen or
1626 other officials having authority for the enactment or enforcement of
1627 traffic regulations within their respective towns, cities or boroughs;

1628 (52) "Low-speed vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in 49
1629 CFR 571.3, as amended from time to time;

1630 (53) "Maintenance vehicle" means any vehicle in use by the state or

1631 by any town, city, borough or district, any state bridge or parkway
1632 authority or any public service company, as defined in section 16-1, in
1633 the maintenance of public highways or bridges and facilities located
1634 within the limits of public highways or bridges;

1635 (54) "Manufacturer" means (A) a person, whether a resident or
1636 nonresident, engaged in the business of constructing or assembling new
1637 motor vehicles of a type required to be registered by the commissioner,
1638 for operation upon any highway, except a utility trailer, which are
1639 offered for sale in this state, or (B) a person who distributes new motor
1640 vehicles to new car dealers licensed in this state;

1641 (55) "Median divider" means an intervening space or physical barrier
1642 or clearly indicated dividing section separating traffic lanes provided
1643 for vehicles proceeding in opposite directions;

1644 (56) "Modified antique motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle twenty
1645 years old or older which has been modified for safe road use, including,
1646 but not limited to, modifications to the drive train, suspension, braking
1647 system and safety or comfort apparatus;

1648 (57) "Motor bus" includes any motor vehicle, except a taxicab, as
1649 defined in section 13b-95, operated in whole or in part on any street or
1650 highway in a manner affording a means of transportation by
1651 indiscriminately receiving or discharging passengers, or running on a
1652 regular route or over any portion of a regular route or between fixed
1653 termini;

1654 (58) "Motor home" means a vehicular unit designed to provide living
1655 quarters and necessary amenities which are built into an integral part
1656 of, or permanently attached to, a truck or van chassis;

1657 (59) "Motor-driven cycle" means any of the following vehicles that
1658 have a seat height of not less than twenty-six inches and a motor having
1659 a capacity of less than fifty cubic centimeters piston displacement: (A) A
1660 motorcycle, other than an autocycle; (B) a motor scooter; or (C) a bicycle

1661 with attached motor, except an electric bicycle;

1662 (60) "Motor vehicle" means any vehicle propelled or drawn by any
1663 nonmuscular power, including a low-speed vehicle. "Motor vehicle"
1664 does not include aircraft, motor boats, road rollers, baggage trucks used
1665 about railroad stations or other mass transit facilities, electric battery-
1666 operated wheel chairs when operated by persons with physical
1667 disabilities at speeds not exceeding fifteen miles per hour, golf carts
1668 operated on highways solely for the purpose of crossing from one part
1669 of the golf course to another, golf-cart-type vehicles operated on roads
1670 or highways on the grounds of state institutions by state employees,
1671 agricultural tractors, farm implements, such vehicles as run only on rails
1672 or tracks, self-propelled snow plows, snow blowers and lawn mowers,
1673 when used for the purposes for which they were designed and operated
1674 at speeds not exceeding four miles per hour, whether or not the operator
1675 rides on or walks behind such equipment, motor-driven cycles, as
1676 defined in section 14-286, special mobile equipment, as defined in
1677 section 14-165, mini-motorcycles, as defined in section 14-289j, electric
1678 bicycles, electric foot scooters and any other vehicle not suitable for
1679 operation on a highway;

1680 (61) "Motorcycle" means (A) an auticycle, as defined in this section,
1681 or (B) a motor vehicle, with or without a side car, that has (i) not more
1682 than three wheels in contact with the ground, (ii) a saddle or seat which
1683 the rider straddles or a platform on which the rider stands, and (iii)
1684 handlebars with which the rider controls the movement of the vehicle.
1685 "Motorcycle" does not include a motor-driven cycle, an electric bicycle
1686 or an electric foot scooter;

1687 (62) "National Driver Registry" or "NDR" means the licensing
1688 information system and database operated by the National Highway
1689 Traffic Safety Administration and established pursuant to the National
1690 Driver Registry Act of 1982, as amended;

1691 (63) "New motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, the equitable or

1692 legal title to which has never been transferred by a manufacturer,
1693 distributor or dealer to an ultimate consumer;

1694 (64) "Nonresident" means any person whose legal residence is in a
1695 state other than Connecticut or in a foreign country;

1696 (65) "Nonresident commercial driver's license" or "nonresident CDL"
1697 means a commercial driver's license issued by a state to an individual
1698 who resides in a foreign jurisdiction;

1699 (66) "Nonskid device" means any device applied to the tires, wheels,
1700 axles or frame of a motor vehicle for the purpose of increasing the
1701 traction of the motor vehicle;

1702 (67) "Number plate" means any sign or marker furnished by the
1703 commissioner on which is displayed the registration number assigned
1704 to a motor vehicle by the commissioner;

1705 (68) "Officer" includes any constable, state marshal, inspector of
1706 motor vehicles, state policeman or other official authorized to make
1707 arrests or to serve process, provided the officer is in uniform or displays
1708 the officer's badge of office in a conspicuous place when making an
1709 arrest;

1710 (69) "Operator" means any person who operates a motor vehicle or
1711 who steers or directs the course of a motor vehicle being towed by
1712 another motor vehicle and includes a driver;

1713 (70) "Out-of-service order" means an order (A) issued by a person
1714 having inspection authority, as defined in regulations adopted by the
1715 commissioner pursuant to section 14-163c, or by an authorized official
1716 of the United States Department of Transportation Federal Motor
1717 Carrier Safety Administration pursuant to any provision of federal law,
1718 to prohibit any motor vehicle specified in subsection (a) of section 14-
1719 163c from being operated on any highway, or to prohibit a driver from
1720 operating any such motor vehicle, or (B) issued by the United States

1721 Department of Transportation Federal Motor Carrier Safety
1722 Administration, pursuant to any provision of federal law, to prohibit
1723 any motor carrier, as defined in Section 386.2 of Title 49 of the Code of
1724 Federal Regulations, from engaging in commercial motor vehicle
1725 operations;

1726 (71) "Owner" means any person holding title to a motor vehicle, or
1727 having the legal right to register the same, including purchasers under
1728 conditional bills of sale;

1729 (72) "Parked vehicle" means a motor vehicle in a stationary position
1730 within the limits of a public highway;

1731 (73) "Passenger and commercial motor vehicle" means a motor
1732 vehicle used for private passenger and commercial purposes which is
1733 eligible for combination registration;

1734 (74) "Passenger motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the
1735 private transportation of persons and their personal belongings,
1736 designed to carry occupants in comfort and safety, with a capacity of
1737 carrying not more than ten passengers including the operator thereof;

1738 (75) "Passenger registration" means the type of registration issued to
1739 a passenger motor vehicle unless a more specific type of registration is
1740 authorized and issued by the commissioner for such class of vehicle;

1741 (76) "Person" includes any individual, corporation, limited liability
1742 company, association, copartnership, company, firm, business trust or
1743 other aggregation of individuals but does not include the state or any
1744 political subdivision thereof, unless the context clearly states or
1745 requires;

1746 (77) "Pick-up truck" means a motor vehicle with an enclosed forward
1747 passenger compartment and an open rearward compartment used for
1748 the transportation of property;

1749 (78) "Pneumatic tires" means tires inflated or inflatable with air;

1750 (79) "Pole trailer" means a trailer which is (A) intended for
1751 transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, logs, pipes
1752 or structural members, which loads are capable of sustaining
1753 themselves as beams between supporting connections, and (B) designed
1754 to be drawn by a motor vehicle and attached or secured directly to the
1755 motor vehicle by any means including a reach, pole or boom;

1756 (80) "Public passenger endorsement" means an endorsement issued
1757 to an individual, which authorizes such individual to transport
1758 passengers, including, but not limited to, passengers who are students
1759 in accordance with subsection (b) or (c) of section 14-36a;

1760 (81) "Recreational vehicle" includes the camper, camp trailer and
1761 motor home classes of vehicles;

1762 (82) "Registration" includes the certificate of motor vehicle
1763 registration and the number plate or plates used in connection with such
1764 registration;

1765 (83) "Registration number" means the identifying number or letters,
1766 or both, assigned by the commissioner to a motor vehicle;

1767 (84) "Resident", for the purpose of registering motor vehicles,
1768 includes any person who is a legal resident of this state, as the
1769 commissioner may presume from the fact that such person occupies a
1770 place of dwelling in this state for more than six months in a year, or any
1771 person, firm or corporation owning or leasing a motor vehicle used or
1772 operated in intrastate business in this state, or a firm or corporation
1773 having its principal office or place of business in this state;

1774 (85) "School bus" means any school bus, as defined in section 14-275,
1775 including a commercial motor vehicle used to transport preschool,
1776 elementary school or secondary school students from home to school,
1777 from school to home, or to and from school-sponsored events, but does
1778 not include a bus used as a common carrier;

1779 (86) "Second" violation or "subsequent" violation means an offense
1780 committed not more than three years after the date of an arrest which
1781 resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same statutory
1782 provision, except in the case of a violation of section 14-215, 14-224, 14-
1783 227a or 14-227m, "second" violation or "subsequent" violation means an
1784 offense committed not more than ten years after the date of an arrest
1785 which resulted in a previous conviction for a violation of the same
1786 statutory provision;

1787 (87) "Semitrailer" means any trailer type vehicle designed and used
1788 in conjunction with a motor vehicle so that some part of its own weight
1789 and load rests on or is carried by another vehicle;

1790 (88) "Serious traffic violation" means a conviction of any of the
1791 following offenses: (A) Excessive speeding, involving a single offense in
1792 which the speed is fifteen miles per hour or more above the posted
1793 speed limit, in violation of section 14-218a or 14-219; (B) reckless driving
1794 in violation of section 14-222; (C) following too closely in violation of
1795 section 14-240 or 14-240a; (D) improper or erratic lane changes, in
1796 violation of section 14-236; (E) using a hand-held mobile telephone or
1797 other electronic device or typing, reading or sending text or a text
1798 message with or from a mobile telephone or mobile electronic device in
1799 violation of subsection (e) of section 14-296aa while operating a
1800 commercial motor vehicle; (F) driving a commercial motor vehicle
1801 without a valid commercial driver's license in violation of section 14-36a
1802 or 14-44a; (G) failure to carry a commercial driver's license in violation
1803 of section 14-44a; (H) failure to have the proper class of license or
1804 endorsement, or violation of a license restriction in violation of section
1805 14-44a; or (I) a violation of any provision of chapter 248, by an operator
1806 who holds a commercial driver's license or learner's permit that results
1807 in the death of another person;

1808 (89) "Service bus" includes any vehicle except a vanpool vehicle or a
1809 school bus designed and regularly used to carry ten or more passengers
1810 when used in private service for the transportation of persons without

1811 charge to the individual;

1812 (90) "Service car" means any motor vehicle used by a manufacturer,
1813 dealer or repairer for emergency motor vehicle repairs on the highways
1814 of this state, for towing or for the transportation of necessary persons,
1815 tools and materials to and from the scene of such emergency repairs or
1816 towing;

1817 (91) "Shoulder" means that portion of a highway immediately
1818 adjacent and contiguous to the travel lanes or main traveled portion of
1819 the roadway;

1820 (92) "Solid tires" means tires of rubber, or other elastic material
1821 approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, which do not depend
1822 on confined air for the support of the load;

1823 (93) "Spot lamp" or "spot light" means a lighting device projecting a
1824 high intensity beam, the direction of which can be readily controlled for
1825 special or emergency lighting as distinguished from ordinary road
1826 illumination;

1827 (94) "State" means any state of the United States and the District of
1828 Columbia unless the context indicates a more specific reference to the
1829 state of Connecticut;

1830 (95) "Stop" means complete cessation of movement;

1831 (96) "Student" means any person under the age of twenty-one years
1832 who is attending a preprimary, primary or secondary school program
1833 of education;

1834 (97) "Tail lamp" means a lighting device affixed to the rear of a motor
1835 vehicle showing a red light to the rear and indicating the presence of the
1836 motor vehicle when viewed from behind;

1837 (98) "Tank vehicle" means any commercial motor vehicle designed to
1838 transport any liquid or gaseous material within a tank that is either

1839 permanently or temporarily attached to the vehicle or its chassis, which
1840 includes, but is not limited to, a cargo tank and portable tank, as defined
1841 in 49 CFR 383.5, as amended, provided it does not include a portable
1842 tank with a rated capacity not to exceed one thousand gallons;

1843 (99) "Tractor" or "truck tractor" means a motor vehicle designed and
1844 used for drawing a semitrailer;

1845 (100) "Tractor-trailer unit" means a combination of a tractor and a
1846 trailer or a combination of a tractor and a semitrailer;

1847 (101) "Trailer" means any rubber-tired vehicle without motive power
1848 drawn or propelled by a motor vehicle;

1849 (102) "Truck" means a motor vehicle designed, used or maintained
1850 primarily for the transportation of property;

1851 (103) "Ultimate consumer" means, with respect to a motor vehicle, the
1852 first person, other than a dealer, who in good faith purchases the motor
1853 vehicle for purposes other than resale;

1854 (104) "United States" means the fifty states and the District of
1855 Columbia;

1856 (105) "Used motor vehicle" includes any motor vehicle which has
1857 been previously separately registered by an ultimate consumer;

1858 (106) "Utility trailer" means a trailer designed and used to transport
1859 personal property, materials or equipment, whether or not permanently
1860 affixed to the bed of the trailer;

1861 (107) "Vanpool vehicle" includes all motor vehicles, the primary
1862 purpose of which is the daily transportation, on a prearranged nonprofit
1863 basis, of individuals between home and work, and which: (A) If owned
1864 by or leased to a person, or to an employee of the person, or to an
1865 employee of a local, state or federal government unit or agency located
1866 in Connecticut, are manufactured and equipped in such manner as to

1867 provide a seating capacity of at least seven but not more than fifteen
1868 individuals, or (B) if owned by or leased to a regional ride-sharing
1869 organization in the state recognized by the Commissioner of
1870 Transportation, are manufactured and equipped in such manner as to
1871 provide a seating capacity of at least six but not more than nineteen
1872 individuals;

1873 (108) "Vehicle" includes any device suitable for the conveyance,
1874 drawing or other transportation of persons or property, whether
1875 operated on wheels, runners, a cushion of air or by any other means.
1876 The term does not include devices propelled or drawn by human power
1877 or devices used exclusively on tracks;

1878 (109) "Vehicle identification number" or "VIN" means a series of
1879 Arabic numbers and Roman letters that is assigned to each new motor
1880 vehicle that is manufactured within or imported into the United States,
1881 in accordance with the provisions of 49 CFR 565, unless another
1882 sequence of numbers and letters has been assigned to a motor vehicle
1883 by the commissioner, in accordance with the provisions of section 14-
1884 149;

1885 (110) "Wrecker" means a vehicle which is registered, designed,
1886 equipped and used for the purposes of towing or transporting wrecked
1887 or disabled motor vehicles for compensation or for related purposes by
1888 a person, firm or corporation licensed in accordance with the provisions
1889 of subpart (D) of part III of this chapter or a vehicle contracted for the
1890 consensual towing or transporting of one or more motor vehicles to or
1891 from a place of sale, purchase, salvage or repair; and

1892 (111) "Wrecker service" means any person, firm or corporation
1893 engaged in the business of operating a wrecker for the purpose of
1894 towing a motor vehicle.

<p>This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:</p>
--

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. 5	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-66
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-63
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-145b
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-150
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 11	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	29-23a
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-66c(b)
Sec. 14	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-145c
Sec. 15	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-145d
Sec. 16	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-66b
Sec. 17	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-51a
Sec. 18	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-64
Sec. 19	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	14-1

Statement of Purpose:

To reform motor vehicle towing statutes, provide protections for motor vehicle owners whose vehicles are towed and establish a consumer bill of rights regarding towing.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]