Bill No. CS/HB 179 (2024)

Amendment No.

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Amendment to Amendment (959183) by Representative McFarland (with title amendment)

Remove lines 7-118 of the amendment and insert:

8 (d)1. Counties must, and municipalities may, establish 9 maximum rates which a wrecker service may charge for cleanup and 10 disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous materials incidental to removal and storage of wrecked or disabled vehicles or vessels 11 from an accident scene or the removal and storage of vehicles or 12 vessels, in the event the owner or operator is incapacitated, 13 14 unavailable, leaves the procurement of wrecker service to the 15 law enforcement officer at the scene, or otherwise does not consent to the removal of the vehicle or vessel. If a 16 830929 - h0179-line 93 a2.docx Published On: 2/15/2024 8:15:19 AM

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17	municipality enacts an ordinance establishing maximum rates
18	under this paragraph, the county's ordinance does not apply
19	within such municipality.
20	2. A wrecker service that is requested to perform cleanup
21	or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous materials subject to
22	maximum rates established under sub-paragraph 1. must notify the
23	applicable local government as soon as practicable of its
24	intention not to perform such cleanup or disposal.
25	3. This paragraph does not create a duty on the part of a
26	vehicle or vessel owner who is a named insured on a valid
27	insurance contract, or the insurer who issues such contract, to
28	pay for cleanup or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous
29	materials beyond what is covered under the vehicle's or vessel's
30	insurance contract in place at the time of the incident
31	requiring such cleanup or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous
32	materials.
33	(e) A county or municipality that has established maximum
34	rates as described in paragraphs (c) and (d) must publish such
35	rates on its website and must establish a process for
36	investigating and resolving complaints regarding fees charged in
37	excess of such rates. In areas where no maximum rates as
38	described in paragraphs (c) and (d) have been established, the
39	maximum rates established by the Division of Florida Highway
40	Patrol under s. 321.051(2) apply in such areas.

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41 Section 2. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of 42 section 166.043, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraphs 43 (d) and (e) are added to that subsection, to read:

44 45 166.043 Ordinances and rules imposing price controls.- (1)

46 This section does not prevent the enactment by local (b) 47 governments of public service rates otherwise authorized by law, including water, sewer, solid waste, public transportation, 48 49 taxicab, or port rates;  $\tau$  rates for towing of vehicles or vessels 50 from or immobilization of vehicles or vessels on private property;  $_{\tau}$  or rates for removal and storage of wrecked or 51 52 disabled vehicles or vessels from an accident scene or the 53 removal and storage of vehicles or vessels, in the event the 54 owner or operator is incapacitated, unavailable, leaves the 55 procurement of wrecker service to the law enforcement officer at 56 the scene, or otherwise does not consent to the removal of the 57 vehicle or vessel.

(c) Counties must establish maximum rates which may be 58 59 charged on the towing of vehicles or vessels from or 60 immobilization of vehicles or vessels on private property or 61 which may be charged for  $\tau$  removal and storage of wrecked or disabled vehicles or vessels from an accident scene or for the 62 63 removal and storage of vehicles or vessels, in the event the 64 owner or operator is incapacitated, unavailable, leaves the 65 procurement of wrecker service to the law enforcement officer at 830929 - h0179-line 93 a2.docx

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the scene, or otherwise does not consent to the removal of the vehicle or vessel. However, if a municipality chooses to enact an ordinance establishing the maximum rates for the towing or immobilization of vehicles or vessels as described in paragraph (b), the county's ordinance established under s. 125.0103 does not apply within such municipality.

72 (d)1. Counties must, and municipalities may, establish 73 maximum rates which a wrecker service may charge for cleanup and 74 disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous materials incidental to 75 removal and storage of wrecked or disabled vehicles or vessels 76 from an accident scene or the removal and storage of vehicles or 77 vessels, in the event the owner or operator is incapacitated, 78 unavailable, leaves the procurement of wrecker service to the 79 law enforcement officer at the scene, or otherwise does not 80 consent to the removal of the vehicle or vessel. If a 81 municipality enacts an ordinance establishing maximum rates 82 under this paragraph, the county's ordinance does not apply 83 within such municipality.

2. A wrecker service that is requested to perform cleanup
or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous materials subject to
maximum rates established under sub-paragraph 1. must notify the
applicable local government as soon as practicable of its
intention not to perform such cleanup or disposal.
3. This paragraph does not create a duty on the part of a

90 <u>vehicle or vessel owner who is a named insured on a valid</u>

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91	insurance contract, or the insurer who issues such contract, to	
92	pay for cleanup or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous	
93	materials beyond what is covered under the vehicle's or vessel's	
94	insurance contract in place at the time of the incident	
95	requiring such cleanup or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous	
96	materials.	
97	(e) A county or municipality that has established maximum	
98	rates as described in paragraphs (c) and (d) must publish such	
99	rates on its website and must establish a process for	
100	investigating and resolving complaints regarding fees charged in	
101	excess of such rates. In areas where no maximum rates as	
102	described in paragraphs (c) and (d) have been established, the	
103	maximum rates established by the Division of Florida Highway	
104	Patrol under s. 321.051(2) apply in such areas.	
105	Section 3. Subsection (2) of section 321.051, Florida	
106	Statutes, is amended to read:	
107	321.051 Florida Highway Patrol wrecker operator system;	
108	penalties for operation outside of system	
109	(2) <u>(a)</u> The Division of Florida Highway Patrol of the	
110	Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles is authorized to	
111	establish within areas designated by the patrol a wrecker	
112	operator system using qualified, reputable wrecker operators for	
113	removal and storage of wrecked or disabled vehicles from a crash	
114	scene or for removal and storage of abandoned vehicles, in the	
115	event the owner or operator is incapacitated or unavailable or	
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leaves the procurement of wrecker service to the officer at the 116 117 scene. All reputable wrecker operators are shall be eligible for 118 use in the system provided their equipment and drivers meet recognized safety qualifications and mechanical standards set by 119 120 rules of the Division of Florida Highway Patrol for the size of 121 vehicle it is designed to handle. The division may not exclude a wrecker operator from the wrecker operator system or fail to 122 123 designate a wrecker operator as an authorized wrecker operator 124 based solely on a prior felony conviction unless such conviction 125 is for a forcible felony as defined in s. 776.08 or a felony listed in s. 812.014(2)(c)6. or s. 812.16(2). The division is 126 127 authorized to limit the number of wrecker operators 128 participating in the wrecker operator system, which authority 129 shall not affect wrecker operators currently participating in 130 the system established by this section. The division must is 131 authorized to establish maximum rates for the towing and storage 132 of vehicles removed at the division's request, and for cleanup and disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous materials incidental 133 to the towing of such vehicles, where such rates have not been 134 135 set by a county or municipality pursuant to s. 125.0103 or s. 166.043. Such rates shall not be considered rules for the 136 137 purpose of chapter 120; however, the department shall establish 138 by rule a procedure for setting such rates. 139 (b)1. A wrecker operator that is requested to perform

140 <u>cleanup or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous materials</u> 830929 - h0179-line 93 a2.docx

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141 subject to maximum rates established under paragraph (a) must 142 notify the division or one of its officers as soon as 143 practicable of its intention not to perform such cleanup or 144 disposal. 145 2. This subsection does not create a duty on the part of a vehicle owner who is a named insured on a valid insurance 146 147 contract, or the insurer who issues such contract, to pay for cleanup or disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous materials 148 149 beyond what is covered under the vehicle's insurance contract in 150 place at the time of the incident requiring such cleanup or 151 disposal of hazardous or nonhazardous materials. 152 (c) The department must publish on its website the maximum 153 rates established under this subsection and must establish a 154 process for investigating and resolving complaints regarding 155 fees charged in excess of such maximum rates. 156 (d) Any provision in chapter 120 to the contrary 157 notwithstanding, a final order of the department denying, 158 suspending, or revoking a wrecker operator's participation in 159 the system shall be reviewable in the manner and within the time 160 provided by the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure only by a writ of certiorari issued by the circuit court in the county 161 wherein such wrecker operator resides. 162 163 164 165 TITLE AMENDMENT 830929 - h0179-line 93 a2.docx Published On: 2/15/2024 8:15:19 AM Page 7 of 8

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166 Remove lines 767-784 of the amendment and insert: 167 and municipalities to establish maximum rates for 168 cleanup and disposal of hazardous and nonhazardous 169 materials under certain circumstances; providing 170 applicability; requiring a wrecker service to make a 171 certain notification under specified circumstances; 172 providing construction; requiring certain counties and 173 municipalities to publish specified rates on their 174 websites and establish a specified process; providing 175 that rates established by the Division of Florida 176 Highway Patrol apply to certain areas of the state; 177 amending s. 321.051, F.S.; prohibiting the division 178 from excluding certain wrecker operators from the 179 wrecker operator system or failing to designate 180 certain wrecker operators as authorized wrecker 181 operators; providing exceptions; requiring, rather 182 than authorizing, the division to establish certain 183 maximum rates; requiring a wrecker operator to make a 184 certain notification under specified circumstances; 185 providing construction; requiring the Department of 186 Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to publish specified 187 rates on its

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