
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1037

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2017 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Stanford, Vick, and Short)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to notice sent by and certain release of
2 information affecting registered tow truck operators; and amending
3 RCW 46.55.110.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.55.110 and 2002 c 279 s 11 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) When an unauthorized vehicle is impounded, the impounding
8 towing operator shall notify the legal and registered owners of the
9 impoundment of the unauthorized vehicle and the owners of any other
10 items of personal property registered or titled with the department.
11 The notification shall be sent by first-class mail within twenty-four
12 hours after the impoundment to the last known registered and legal
13 owners of the vehicle, and the owners of any other items of personal
14 property registered or titled with the department, as provided by the
15 law enforcement agency, and shall inform the owners of the identity
16 of the person or agency authorizing the impound. The notification
17 shall include the name of the impounding tow firm, its address, and
18 telephone number. The notice shall also include the location, time of
19 the impound, and by whose authority the vehicle was impounded. The
20 notice shall also include the written notice of the right of

1 redemption and opportunity for a hearing to contest the validity of
2 the impoundment pursuant to RCW 46.55.120.

3 (2) In addition, if a suspended license impound has been ordered,
4 the notice must state the length of the impound, the requirement of
5 the posting of a security deposit to ensure payment of the costs of
6 removal, towing, and storage, notification that if the security
7 deposit is not posted the vehicle will immediately be processed and
8 sold at auction as an abandoned vehicle, and the requirements set out
9 in RCW 46.55.120(1)((~~b~~)) (c) regarding the payment of the costs of
10 removal, towing, and storage as well as providing proof of
11 satisfaction of any penalties, fines, or forfeitures before
12 redemption. The notice must also state that the registered owner is
13 ineligible to purchase the vehicle at the abandoned vehicle auction,
14 if held.

15 (3) In the case of an abandoned vehicle, or other item of
16 personal property registered or titled with the department, within
17 twenty-four hours after receiving information on the legal and
18 registered owners from the department through the abandoned vehicle
19 report, the tow truck operator shall send by ((~~certified~~)) first-
20 class mail((~~, with return receipt requested,~~)) a notice of custody
21 and sale to the legal and registered owners and of the penalties for
22 the traffic infraction littering—abandoned vehicle. The tow truck
23 operator shall obtain a certificate of mailing from the United States
24 postal service when notice is mailed.

25 (4) If the date on which a notice required by subsection (3) of
26 this section is to be mailed falls upon a Saturday, Sunday, or a
27 postal holiday, the notice may be mailed on the next day that is
28 neither a Saturday, Sunday, nor a postal holiday.

29 (5) No notices need be sent to the legal or registered owners of
30 an impounded vehicle or other item of personal property registered or
31 titled with the department, if the vehicle or personal property has
32 been redeemed.

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