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HOUSE BILL 1806

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State of Washington                      52nd Legislature                      1991 Regular Session

By Representatives R. Meyers, Winsley and R. Johnson.

Read first time February 11, 1991.      Referred to Committee on  
Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to junk vehicles; and amending RCW 46.55.010.

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

3            **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.55.010 and 1989 c 111 s 1 are each amended to read  
4 as follows:

5            The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this  
6 chapter:

7            (1) "Abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle that a registered tow truck  
8 operator has impounded and held in the operator's possession for  
9 ninety-six consecutive hours.

10           (2) "Abandoned vehicle report" means the document prescribed by the  
11 state that the towing operator forwards to the department after a  
12 vehicle has become abandoned.

13           (3) "Impound" means to take and hold a vehicle in legal custody.  
14 There are two types of impounds--public and private.

1 (a) "Public impound" means that the vehicle has been impounded at  
2 the direction of a law enforcement officer or by a public official  
3 having jurisdiction over the public property upon which the vehicle was  
4 located.

5 (b) "Private impound" means that the vehicle has been impounded at  
6 the direction of a person having control or possession of the private  
7 property upon which the vehicle was located.

8 (4) "Junk vehicle" means a vehicle certified under RCW 46.55.230 as  
9 meeting all the following requirements:

10 (a) Is three years old or older;

11 (b) Is extensively damaged, such damage including but not limited  
12 to any of the following: A broken window or windshield or missing  
13 wheels, tires, motor, or transmission;

14 (c) Is apparently inoperable; and

15 (d) Is without a valid, current registration plate((÷

16 ~~(e) Has a fair market value equal only to the value of the scrap in~~  
17 ~~it)).~~

18 (5) "Master log" means the document or an electronic facsimile  
19 prescribed by the department and the Washington state patrol in which  
20 an operator records transactions involving impounded vehicles.

21 (6) "Registered tow truck operator" or "operator" means any person  
22 who engages in the impounding, transporting, or storage of unauthorized  
23 vehicles or the disposal of abandoned vehicles.

24 (7) "Residential property" means property that has no more than  
25 four living units located on it.

26 (8) "Tow truck" means a motor vehicle that is equipped for and used  
27 in the business of towing vehicles with equipment as approved by the  
28 state patrol.

1 (9) "Tow truck number" means the number issued by the department to  
2 tow trucks used by a registered tow truck operator in the state of  
3 Washington.

4 (10) "Tow truck permit" means the permit issued annually by the  
5 department that has the classification of service the tow truck may  
6 provide stamped upon it.

7 (11) "Tow truck service" means the transporting upon the public  
8 streets and highways of this state of vehicles, together with personal  
9 effects and cargo, by a tow truck of a registered operator.

10 (12) "Unauthorized vehicle" means a vehicle that is subject to  
11 impoundment after being left unattended in one of the following public  
12 or private locations for the indicated period of time:

13 Subject to removal after:

14 (a) Public locations:

15 (i) Constituting an accident or a traffic hazard as  
16 defined in RCW 46.55.113 . . . . . Immediately

17 (ii) On a highway and tagged as  
18 described in RCW 46.55.085 . . . . . 24 hours

19 (iii) In a publicly owned or controlled  
20 parking facility, properly posted  
21 under RCW 46.55.070 . . . . . Immediately

22 (b) Private locations:

23 (i) On residential property . . . . . Immediately

24 (ii) On private, nonresidential property,  
25 properly posted under  
26 RCW 46.55.070 . . . . . Immediately

27 (iii) On private, nonresidential property,  
28 not posted . . . . . 24 hours