

HOUSE BILL REPORT

SHB 1507

As Passed Legislature

Title: An act relating to abandoned, unauthorized, or junk vehicles.

Brief Description: Penalizing owners of abandoned, unauthorized, or junk vehicles.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Zellinsky, Ballard, Chappell, Van Luven, R. Johnson, Campbell, R. Meyers, Springer and Sheldon.)

Brief History:

Reported by House Committee on:
Transportation, February 16, 1993, DPS;
Passed House, March 15, 1993, 92-5;
Amended by Senate;
Passed Legislature, April 20, 1993, 96-1.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: The substitute bill be substituted therefor and the substitute bill do pass. Signed by 24 members: Representatives R. Fisher, Chair; Brown, Vice Chair; Jones, Vice Chair; Schmidt, Ranking Minority Member; Brough; Brumsickle; Cothorn; Eide; Forner; Hansen; Heavey; Horn; Johanson; J. Kohl; R. Meyers; Miller; H. Myers; Orr; Patterson; Quall; Sheldon; Shin; Wood; and Zellinsky.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Fuhrman.

Staff: Brad Lovaas (786-7307).

Background: A registered tow truck operator who has complied with all impoundment and notification laws has a lien upon a vehicle for the towing and storage charges incurred.

In addition to the lien, a registered tow truck operator has a deficiency claim against the registered owner of the vehicle for towing and storage of the vehicle not to exceed \$300 less the amount bid at auction, and for vehicles over 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight, the deficiency is \$1,000.

Summary of Bill: The last registered owner of record is presumed liable for the abandonment of a vehicle unless the owner has filed a seller's report or vehicle theft report. If an unauthorized vehicle is unredeemed, then the last registered owner is guilty of a traffic infraction.

A person must make restitution to the tow truck operator for services rendered prior to the traffic infraction being satisfied.

Fiscal Note: Requested February 2, 1993.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Testimony For: This bill will aid in the disposal of abandoned vehicles by providing the tow truck operator with a greater level of assurance that he will be compensated for his services.

Testimony Against: None.

Witnesses: Stu Halsan, Washington Tow Truck Association.