

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1507

AS REPORTED BY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, MARCH 31, 1993

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

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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Vognild, Chairman; Loveland, Vice Chairman; Skratek, Vice Chairman; Barr, Drew, Haugen, Nelson, Oke, Prentice, Prince, M. Rasmussen, Sheldon, von Reichbauer, and Winsley.

**Staff:** Brad Lovaas (786-7307)

**Hearing Dates:** March 31, 1993

**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.

An individual who fails to respond to a traffic infraction is unable to renew a driver's license prior to satisfying the traffic infraction and other penalties.

**SUMMARY:**

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.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED SENATE AMENDMENT:**

The intent of the original bill is clarified by providing that a person must make restitution to the tow truck operator for

services rendered prior to the traffic infraction being satisfied.

**Appropriation:** none

**Revenue:** none

**Fiscal Note:** available

**TESTIMONY FOR:**

Provides that tow truck operators will be compensated for towing and storage charges.

**TESTIMONY AGAINST:** None

**TESTIFIED:** Stu Halsan, Al Runte, WA Tow Truck Assn.