
SENATE BILL 6663

State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Roach, Haugen, Shin, Kohl-Welles, Stevens, McDonald, Parlette, Prentice, Jacobsen, Honeyford and Gardner

Read first time 01/24/2002. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle impoundment; and amending RCW 46.55.110.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.55.110 and 1999 c 398 s 6 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 (1) When an unauthorized vehicle is impounded, the impounding
6 towing operator shall notify by telephone and first-class mail, the
7 legal and registered owners of the impoundment of the unauthorized
8 vehicle and shall notify by first-class mail the owners of any other
9 items of personal property registered or titled with the department.
10 Within twenty-four hours after impoundment, the impounding towing
11 operator shall make reasonable effort, using all publicly available
12 resources or information provided by the law enforcement agency, to
13 ascertain the home telephone number of the legal and registered owners
14 of the vehicle and notify the legal and registered owners of the
15 impoundment. Telephone notification must include: The name of the
16 impounding towing operator, and its address and telephone number; the
17 location and time of impoundment; and on whose authority the vehicle
18 was impounded. Telephone notification shall also include disclosure of
19 the impoundment costs and vehicle storage fees charged by the

1 impounding towing operator. If the vehicle's registered or legal
2 owner's home telephone number is unpublished or otherwise unavailable
3 through public means described under this section, the impounding
4 towing operator shall be considered to have met the intent of this
5 subsection. The notification by first-class mail shall be sent ((by
6 first-class mail)) within twenty-four hours after the impoundment to
7 the last known registered and legal owners of the vehicle, and the
8 owners of any other items of personal property registered or titled
9 with the department, as provided by the law enforcement agency, and
10 shall inform the owners of the identity of the person or agency
11 authorizing the impound. The notification shall include the name of
12 the impounding ((~~tow firm~~)) towing operator, its address, and telephone
13 number. The notice shall also include the location, time of the
14 impound, and by whose authority the vehicle was impounded. The notice
15 shall also include the written notice of the right of redemption and
16 opportunity for a hearing to contest the validity of the impoundment
17 pursuant to RCW 46.55.120.

18 (2) In addition, if a suspended license impound has been ordered,
19 the notice must state the length of the impound, the requirement of the
20 posting of a security deposit to ensure payment of the costs of
21 removal, towing, and storage, notification that if the security deposit
22 is not posted the vehicle will immediately be processed and sold at
23 auction as an abandoned vehicle, and the requirements set out in RCW
24 46.55.120(1)(b) regarding the payment of the costs of removal, towing,
25 and storage as well as providing proof of satisfaction of any
26 penalties, fines, or forfeitures before redemption. The notice must
27 also state that the registered owner is ineligible to purchase the
28 vehicle at the abandoned vehicle auction, if held.

29 (3) In the case of an abandoned vehicle, or other item of personal
30 property registered or titled with the department, within twenty-four
31 hours after receiving information on the owners from the department
32 through the abandoned vehicle report, the tow truck operator shall send
33 by certified mail, with return receipt requested, a notice of custody
34 and sale to the legal and registered owners.

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

1 (5) No notices need be sent to the legal or registered owners of an
2 impounded vehicle or other item of personal property registered or
3 titled with the department, if the vehicle or personal property has
4 been redeemed.

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