

SENATE BILL REPORT

ESB 5966

As Passed Senate, March 12, 2005

Title: An act relating to vehicle immobilization.

Brief Description: Prohibiting vehicle immobilization.

Sponsors: Senators McCaslin, Haugen and Honeyford.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 3/2/05, 3/3/05 [DP].

Passed Senate: 3/12/05, 46-0.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Jacobsen, Vice Chair; Poulsen, Vice Chair; Swecker, Ranking Minority Member; Benson, Esser, Kastama, Mulliken, Oke, Spanel and Weinstein.

Staff: Janice Baumgardt (786-7319)

Background: Under current law, tow truck operators are required to be registered and licensed by the Department of Licensing (DOL). Under the tow truck operator statutes, "registered tow truck operator" means any person who engages in the impounding, transporting, or storage of unauthorized vehicles or the disposal of abandoned vehicles; "impound" means to take and hold a vehicle in legal custody. Unlicensed persons may not impound unauthorized vehicles.

Summary of Bill: "Immobilize" is defined as the use of a locking wheel boot that, when attached to the wheel of a vehicle, prevents the vehicle from moving without damage to the tire to which the locking wheel boot is attached. Property owners are prohibited from immobilizing any vehicle not owned by them; however, property owned by the state or any unit of local government is exempt from this prohibition. A violation of this act is a gross misdemeanor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

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

Testimony For: None.

Testimony Against: None.

Who Testified: None.