
SENATE BILL 5016

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs, Rivers, and Warnick

Prefiled 01/06/17. Read first time 01/09/17. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to deficiency claims after auction of a private
2 property vehicle impound; and amending RCW 46.55.140.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.55.140 and 2010 c 161 s 1121 are each amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (1) A registered tow truck operator who has a valid and signed
7 impoundment authorization has a lien upon the impounded vehicle for
8 services provided in the towing and storage of the vehicle, unless
9 the impoundment is determined to have been invalid. The lien does not
10 apply to personal property in or upon the vehicle that is not
11 permanently attached to or is not an integral part of the vehicle
12 except for items of personal property registered or titled with the
13 department. The registered tow truck operator also has a deficiency
14 claim against the registered owner of the vehicle for services
15 provided in the towing and storage of the vehicle not to exceed the
16 sum of (~~five~~) eight hundred dollars after deduction of the amount
17 bid at auction, and for vehicles of over ten thousand pounds gross
18 vehicle weight, the operator has a deficiency claim of (~~one~~) two
19 thousand two hundred fifty dollars after deduction of the amount bid
20 at auction, unless the impound is determined to be invalid. The
21 dollar thresholds established in this subsection must be adjusted

1 every three years to reflect the percentage change for that three-
2 year period in the consumer price index for all urban consumers
3 published by the bureau of labor statistics of the United States
4 department of labor. The limitation on towing and storage deficiency
5 claims does not apply to an impound directed by a law enforcement
6 officer. In no case may the cost of the auction or a buyer's fee be
7 added to the amount charged for the vehicle at the auction, the
8 vehicle's lien, or the overage due. A registered owner who has
9 completed and filed with the department the report of sale as
10 provided for in RCW 46.12.650 and has timely and properly filed the
11 report of sale is relieved of liability under this section. The
12 person named as the new owner of the vehicle on the timely and
13 properly filed report of sale shall assume liability under this
14 section.

15 (2) Any person who tows, removes, or otherwise disturbs any
16 vehicle parked, stalled, or otherwise left on privately owned or
17 controlled property, and any person owning or controlling the private
18 property, or either of them, are liable to the owner or operator of a
19 vehicle, or each of them, for consequential and incidental damages
20 arising from any interference with the ownership or use of the
21 vehicle which does not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

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