
SENATE BILL 5966

State of Washington 59th Legislature 2005 Regular Session

By Senators McCaslin, Haugen and Honeyford

Read first time 02/17/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle immobilization; amending RCW 46.55.010;
2 and adding a new section to chapter 46.55 RCW.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.55 RCW,
5 to be codified between RCW 46.55.240 and 46.55.900, to read as follows:

6 (1) A property owner shall not immobilize any vehicle owned by a
7 person other than the property owner.

8 (2) This section does not apply to property owned by the state or
9 any unit of local government.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.55.010 and 1999 c 398 s 2 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this
13 chapter:

14 (1) "Abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle that a registered tow truck
15 operator has impounded and held in the operator's possession for one
16 hundred twenty consecutive hours.

17 (2) "Immobilize" means the use of a locking wheel boot that, when

1 attached to the wheel of a vehicle, prevents the vehicle from moving
2 without damage to the tire to which the locking wheel boot is attached.

3 (3) "Abandoned vehicle report" means the document prescribed by the
4 state that the towing operator forwards to the department after a
5 vehicle has become abandoned.

6 ~~((+3))~~ (4) "Impound" means to take and hold a vehicle in legal
7 custody. There are two types of impounds--public and private.

8 (a) "Public impound" means that the vehicle has been impounded at
9 the direction of a law enforcement officer or by a public official
10 having jurisdiction over the public property upon which the vehicle was
11 located.

12 (b) "Private impound" means that the vehicle has been impounded at
13 the direction of a person having control or possession of the private
14 property upon which the vehicle was located.

15 ~~((+4))~~ (5) "Junk vehicle" means a vehicle certified under RCW
16 46.55.230 as meeting at least three of the following requirements:

17 (a) Is three years old or older;

18 (b) Is extensively damaged, such damage including but not limited
19 to any of the following: A broken window or windshield, or missing
20 wheels, tires, motor, or transmission;

21 (c) Is apparently inoperable;

22 (d) Has an approximate fair market value equal only to the
23 approximate value of the scrap in it.

24 ~~((+5))~~ (6) "Master log" means the document or an electronic
25 facsimile prescribed by the department and the Washington state patrol
26 in which an operator records transactions involving impounded vehicles.

27 ~~((+6))~~ (7) "Registered tow truck operator" or "operator" means any
28 person who engages in the impounding, transporting, or storage of
29 unauthorized vehicles or the disposal of abandoned vehicles.

30 ~~((+7))~~ (8) "Residential property" means property that has no more
31 than four living units located on it.

32 ~~((+8))~~ (9) "Suspended license impound" means an impound ordered
33 under RCW 46.55.113 because the operator was arrested for a violation
34 of RCW 46.20.342 or ~~((46.20.420))~~ 46.20.345.

35 ~~((+9))~~ (10) "Tow truck" means a motor vehicle that is equipped for
36 and used in the business of towing vehicles with equipment as approved
37 by the state patrol.

