
Transportation Committee

SB 6340

Brief Description: Authorizing registered tow truck operators to carry passengers in a vehicle attached to a flatbed tow truck under certain situations.

Sponsors: Senators Sheldon, King, Haugen, McAuliffe and Schoesler.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows a registered tow truck operator to allow passengers to ride in a vehicle that is carried on the deck of a flatbed tow truck under certain conditions.
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Hearing Date: 2/24/12

Staff: Alison Hellberg (786-7152).

Background:

Tow truck operators who impound vehicles from private or public property and/or tow for law enforcement agencies must be registered with the Department of Licensing (Department). Impounds, i.e., the taking and holding of a vehicle in legal custody without the consent of the owner, may only be performed by registered tow truck operators (operators). Operators are issued a permit by the Department following payment of a \$100 per company and a \$50 per truck fee, plus an inspection by the Washington State Patrol. Operators must also file a surety bond of \$5,000 with the Department and meet certain minimum insurance requirements.

State law prohibits a person from occupying a vehicle while it is being towed by a tow truck.

Summary of Bill:

A registered tow truck operator may allow passengers to ride in a vehicle that is carried on the deck of a flatbed tow truck only when the number of people that need to be transported exceeds the seating capacity of the tow truck. Drivers and passengers must meet child passenger restraint and seat belt requirements.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.