

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5649

56th Legislature
1999 Regular Session

Passed by the Senate April 21, 1999
YEAS 41 NAYS 0

President of the Senate

Passed by the House April 13, 1999
YEAS 95 NAYS 0

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

**Speaker of the
House of Representatives**

Approved

CERTIFICATE

I, Tony M. Cook, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5649** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

Secretary

FILED

Governor of the State of Washington

**Secretary of State
State of Washington**

ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5649

AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 1999 Regular Session

State of Washington 56th Legislature 1999 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Sellar and Goings

Read first time 02/01/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to vehicle impound notices, security, and auctions;
2 amending RCW 18.11.070, 46.55.010, 46.55.080, 46.55.100, 46.55.110,
3 46.55.120, 46.55.130, 46.61.625, and 46.70.180; and adding a new
4 section to chapter 46.55 RCW.

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

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 18.11.070 and 1989 c 307 s 43 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) It is unlawful for any person to act as an auctioneer or for an
9 auction company to engage in any business in this state without a
10 license.

11 (2) This chapter does not apply to:

12 (a) An auction of goods conducted by an individual who personally
13 owns those goods and who did not acquire those goods for resale;

14 (b) An auction conducted by or under the direction of a public
15 authority;

16 (c) An auction held under judicial order in the settlement of a
17 decedent's estate;

18 (d) An auction which is required by law to be at auction;

1 (e) An auction conducted by or on behalf of a political
2 organization or a charitable corporation or association if the person
3 conducting the sale receives no compensation;

4 (f) An auction of livestock or agricultural products which is
5 conducted under chapter 16.65 or 20.01 RCW. Auctions not regulated
6 under chapter 16.65 or 20.01 RCW shall be fully subject to the
7 provisions of this chapter;

8 (g) An auction held under chapter 19.150 RCW; (~~or~~)

9 (h) An auction of an abandoned vehicle under chapter 46.55 RCW; or

10 (i) An auction of fur pelts conducted by any cooperative
11 association organized under chapter 23.86 RCW or its wholly owned
12 subsidiary. In order to qualify for this exemption, the fur pelts must
13 be from members of the association. However, the association, without
14 loss of the exemption, may auction pelts that it purchased from
15 nonmembers for the purpose of completing lots or orders, so long as the
16 purchased pelts do not exceed fifteen percent of the total pelts
17 auctioned.

18 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.55.010 and 1998 c 203 s 8 are each amended to read
19 as follows:

20 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this
21 chapter:

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

25 (2) "Abandoned vehicle report" means the document prescribed by the
26 state that the towing operator forwards to the department after a
27 vehicle has become abandoned.

28 (3) "Impound" means to take and hold a vehicle in legal custody.
29 There are two types of impounds--public and private.

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

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

37 (4) "Junk vehicle" means a vehicle certified under RCW 46.55.230 as
38 meeting at least three of the following requirements:

- 1 (a) Is three years old or older;
- 2 (b) Is extensively damaged, such damage including but not limited
3 to any of the following: A broken window or windshield, or missing
4 wheels, tires, motor, or transmission;
- 5 (c) Is apparently inoperable;
- 6 (d) Has an approximate fair market value equal only to the
7 approximate value of the scrap in it.
- 8 (5) "Master log" means the document or an electronic facsimile
9 prescribed by the department and the Washington state patrol in which
10 an operator records transactions involving impounded vehicles.
- 11 (6) "Registered tow truck operator" or "operator" means any person
12 who engages in the impounding, transporting, or storage of unauthorized
13 vehicles or the disposal of abandoned vehicles.
- 14 (7) "Residential property" means property that has no more than
15 four living units located on it.
- 16 (8) "Suspended license impound" means an impound ordered under RCW
17 46.55.113 because the operator was arrested for a violation of RCW
18 46.20.342 or 46.20.420.
- 19 (9) "Tow truck" means a motor vehicle that is equipped for and used
20 in the business of towing vehicles with equipment as approved by the
21 state patrol.
- 22 ~~((+9))~~ (10) "Tow truck number" means the number issued by the
23 department to tow trucks used by a registered tow truck operator in the
24 state of Washington.
- 25 ~~((+10))~~ (11) "Tow truck permit" means the permit issued annually
26 by the department that has the classification of service the tow truck
27 may provide stamped upon it.
- 28 ~~((+11))~~ (12) "Tow truck service" means the transporting upon the
29 public streets and highways of this state of vehicles, together with
30 personal effects and cargo, by a tow truck of a registered operator.
- 31 ~~((+12))~~ (13) "Unauthorized vehicle" means a vehicle that is
32 subject to impoundment after being left unattended in one of the
33 following public or private locations for the indicated period of time:

34 *Subject to removal after:*

35 (a) *Public locations:*

36 (i) *Constituting an accident or a traffic hazard as*

37 *defined in RCW 46.55.113 Immediately*

- 1 (ii) *On a highway and tagged as described in RCW*
- 2 *46.55.085 24 hours*
- 3 (iii) *In a publicly owned or controlled parking facility,*
- 4 *properly posted under RCW*
- 5 *46.55.070 Immediately*
- 6 (b) *Private locations:*
- 7 (i) *On residential property Immediately*
- 8 (ii) *On private, nonresidential property, properly*
- 9 *posted under RCW 46.55.070 Immediately*
- 10 (iii) *On private, nonresidential property,*
- 11 *not posted 24 hours*

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.55 RCW
 13 to read as follows:

14 The Washington state patrol shall provide by rule for a uniform
 15 impound authorization and inventory form. All law enforcement agencies
 16 must use this form for all vehicle impounds after June 30, 2001.

17 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.55.080 and 1989 c 111 s 8 are each amended to read
 18 as follows:

19 (1) If a vehicle is in violation of the time restrictions of RCW
 20 46.55.010(~~((+12+))~~) (13), it may be impounded by a registered tow truck
 21 operator at the direction of a law enforcement officer or other public
 22 official with jurisdiction if the vehicle is on public property, or at
 23 the direction of the property owner or an agent if it is on private
 24 property. A law enforcement officer may also direct the impoundment of
 25 a vehicle pursuant to a writ or court order.

26 (2) The person requesting a private impound or a law enforcement
 27 officer or public official requesting a public impound shall provide a
 28 signed authorization for the impound at the time and place of the
 29 impound to the registered tow truck operator before the operator may
 30 proceed with the impound. A registered tow truck operator, employee,
 31 or his or her agent may not serve as an agent of a property owner for
 32 the purposes of signing an impound authorization or, independent of the
 33 property owner, identify a vehicle for impound.

34 (3) In the case of a private impound, the impound authorization
 35 shall include the following statement: "A person authorizing this
 36 impound, if the impound is found in violation of chapter 46.55 RCW, may
 37 be held liable for the costs incurred by the vehicle owner."

1 (4) A registered tow truck operator shall record and keep in the
2 operator's files the date and time that a vehicle is put in the
3 operator's custody and released. The operator shall make an entry into
4 a master log regarding transactions relating to impounded vehicles.
5 The operator shall make this master log available, upon request, to
6 representatives of the department or the state patrol.

7 (5) A person who engages in or offers to engage in the activities
8 of a registered tow truck operator may not be associated in any way
9 with a person or business whose main activity is authorizing the
10 impounding of vehicles.

11 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.55.100 and 1998 c 203 s 9 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) At the time of impoundment the registered tow truck operator
14 providing the towing service shall give immediate notification, by
15 telephone or radio, to a law enforcement agency having jurisdiction who
16 shall maintain a log of such reports. A law enforcement agency, or a
17 private communication center acting on behalf of a law enforcement
18 agency, shall within six to twelve hours of the impoundment, provide to
19 a requesting operator the name and address of the legal and registered
20 owners of the vehicle, and the registered owner of any personal
21 property registered or titled with the department that is attached to
22 or contained in or on the impounded vehicle, the vehicle identification
23 number, and any other necessary, pertinent information. The initial
24 notice of impoundment shall be followed by a written or electronic
25 facsimile notice within twenty-four hours. In the case of a vehicle
26 from another state, time requirements of this subsection do not apply
27 until the requesting law enforcement agency in this state receives the
28 information.

29 (2) The operator shall immediately send an abandoned vehicle report
30 to the department for any vehicle, and for any items of personal
31 property registered or titled with the department, that are in the
32 operator's possession after the one hundred twenty hour abandonment
33 period. Such report need not be sent when the impoundment is pursuant
34 to a writ, court order, or police hold that is not a suspended license
35 impound. The owner notification and abandonment process shall be
36 initiated by the registered tow truck operator immediately following
37 notification by a court or law enforcement officer that the writ, court

1 order, or police hold that is not a suspended license impound is no
2 longer in effect.

3 (3) Following the submittal of an abandoned vehicle report, the
4 department shall provide the registered tow truck operator with owner
5 information within seventy-two hours.

6 (4) Within fourteen days of the sale of an abandoned vehicle at
7 public auction, the towing operator shall send a copy of the abandoned
8 vehicle report showing the disposition of the abandoned vehicle and any
9 other items of personal property registered or titled with the
10 department to the crime information center of the Washington state
11 patrol.

12 (5) If the operator sends an abandoned vehicle report to the
13 department and the department finds no owner information, an operator
14 may proceed with an inspection of the vehicle and any other items of
15 personal property registered or titled with the department to determine
16 whether owner identification is within the vehicle.

17 (6) If the operator finds no owner identification, the operator
18 shall immediately notify the appropriate law enforcement agency, which
19 shall search the vehicle and any other items of personal property
20 registered or titled with the department for the vehicle identification
21 number or other appropriate identification numbers and check the
22 necessary records to determine the vehicle's or other property's
23 owners.

24 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.55.110 and 1998 c 203 s 3 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) When an unauthorized vehicle is impounded, the impounding
27 towing operator shall notify the legal and registered owners of the
28 impoundment of the unauthorized vehicle and the owners of any other
29 items of personal property registered or titled with the department.
30 The notification shall be sent by first-class mail within twenty-four
31 hours after the impoundment to the last known registered and legal
32 owners of the vehicle, and the owners of any other items of personal
33 property registered or titled with the department, as provided by the
34 law enforcement agency, and shall inform the owners of the identity of
35 the person or agency authorizing the impound. The notification shall
36 include the name of the impounding tow firm, its address, and telephone
37 number. The notice shall also include the location, time of the
38 impound, and by whose authority the vehicle was impounded. The notice

1 shall also include the written notice of the right of redemption and
2 opportunity for a hearing to contest the validity of the impoundment
3 pursuant to RCW 46.55.120.

4 (2) In addition, if a suspended license impound has been ordered,
5 the notice must state the length of the impound, the requirement of the
6 posting of a security deposit to ensure payment of the costs of
7 removal, towing, and storage, notification that if the security deposit
8 is not posted the vehicle will immediately be processed and sold at
9 auction as an abandoned vehicle, and the requirements set out in RCW
10 46.55.120(1)(b) regarding the payment of the costs of removal, towing,
11 and storage as well as providing proof of satisfaction of any
12 penalties, fines, or forfeitures before redemption. The notice must
13 also state that the registered owner is ineligible to purchase the
14 vehicle at the abandoned vehicle auction, if held.

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

21 ~~((+3))~~ (4) If the date on which a notice required by subsection
22 ~~((+2))~~ (3) of this section is to be mailed falls upon a Saturday,
23 Sunday, or a postal holiday, the notice may be mailed on the next day
24 that is neither a Saturday, Sunday, nor a postal holiday.

25 ~~((+4))~~ (5) No notices need be sent to the legal or registered
26 owners of an impounded vehicle or other item of personal property
27 registered or titled with the department, if the vehicle or personal
28 property has been redeemed.

29 **Sec. 7.** RCW 46.55.120 and 1998 c 203 s 5 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 (1) Vehicles or other items of personal property registered or
32 titled with the department that are impounded by registered tow truck
33 operators pursuant to RCW 46.55.080, 46.55.085, or 46.55.113 may be
34 redeemed only under the following circumstances:

35 (a) Only the legal owner, the registered owner, a person authorized
36 in writing by the registered owner or the vehicle's insurer, a person
37 who is determined and verified by the operator to have the permission
38 of the registered owner of the vehicle or other item of personal

1 property registered or titled with the department, or one who has
2 purchased a vehicle or item of personal property registered or titled
3 with the department from the registered owner who produces proof of
4 ownership or written authorization and signs a receipt therefor, may
5 redeem an impounded vehicle or items of personal property registered or
6 titled with the department. In addition, a vehicle impounded because
7 the operator is in violation of RCW 46.20.342(1)(c) shall not be
8 released until a person eligible to redeem it under this subsection
9 (1)(a) satisfies the requirements of (~~(b)~~) (e) of this subsection,
10 including paying all towing, removal, and storage fees, notwithstanding
11 the fact that the hold was ordered by a government agency. If the
12 department's records show that the operator has been convicted of a
13 violation of RCW 46.20.342 or a similar local ordinance within the past
14 five years, the vehicle may be held for up to thirty days at the
15 written direction of the agency ordering the vehicle impounded. A
16 vehicle impounded because the operator is arrested for a violation of
17 RCW 46.20.342 may be released only pursuant to a written order from the
18 agency that ordered the vehicle impounded or from the court having
19 jurisdiction. An agency may issue a written order to release pursuant
20 to a provision of an applicable state agency rule or local ordinance
21 authorizing release on the basis of economic or personal hardship to
22 the spouse of the operator, taking into consideration public safety
23 factors, including the operator's criminal history and driving record.

24 If a vehicle is impounded because the operator is in violation of
25 RCW 46.20.342(1) (a) or (b), the vehicle may be held for up to thirty
26 days at the written direction of the agency ordering the vehicle
27 impounded. However, if the department's records show that the operator
28 has been convicted of a violation of RCW 46.20.342(1) (a) or (b) or a
29 similar local ordinance within the past five years, the vehicle may be
30 held at the written direction of the agency ordering the vehicle
31 impounded for up to sixty days, and for up to ninety days if the
32 operator has two or more such prior offenses. If a vehicle is
33 impounded because the operator is arrested for a violation of RCW
34 46.20.342, the vehicle may not be released until a person eligible to
35 redeem it under this subsection (1)(a) satisfies the requirements of
36 (~~(b)~~) (e) of this subsection, including paying all towing, removal,
37 and storage fees, notwithstanding the fact that the hold was ordered by
38 a government agency.

1 (b) If the vehicle is directed to be held for a suspended license
2 impound, a person who desires to redeem the vehicle at the end of the
3 period of impound shall within five days of the impound at the request
4 of the tow truck operator pay a security deposit to the tow truck
5 operator of not more than one-half of the applicable impound storage
6 rate for each day of the proposed suspended license impound. The tow
7 truck operator shall credit this amount against the final bill for
8 removal, towing, and storage upon redemption. The tow truck operator
9 may accept other sufficient security in lieu of the security deposit.
10 If the person desiring to redeem the vehicle does not pay the security
11 deposit or provide other security acceptable to the tow truck operator,
12 the tow truck operator may process and sell at auction the vehicle as
13 an abandoned vehicle within the normal time limits set out in RCW
14 46.55.130(1). The security deposit required by this section may be
15 paid and must be accepted at any time up to twenty-four hours before
16 the beginning of the auction to sell the vehicle as abandoned. The
17 registered owner is not eligible to purchase the vehicle at the
18 auction, and the tow truck operator shall sell the vehicle to the
19 highest bidder who is not the registered owner.

20 (c) Notwithstanding (b) of this subsection, a rental car business
21 may immediately redeem a rental vehicle it owns by payment of the costs
22 of removal, towing, and storage, whereupon the vehicle will not be held
23 for a suspended license impound.

24 (d) Notwithstanding (b) of this subsection, a motor vehicle dealer
25 or lender with a perfected security interest in the vehicle may redeem
26 or lawfully repossess a vehicle immediately by payment of the costs of
27 removal, towing, and storage, whereupon the vehicle will not be held
28 for a suspended license impound. A motor vehicle dealer or lender with
29 a perfected security interest in the vehicle may not knowingly and
30 intentionally engage in collusion with a registered owner to repossess
31 and then return or resell a vehicle to the registered owner in an
32 attempt to avoid a suspended license impound. However, this provision
33 does not preclude a vehicle dealer or a lender with a perfected
34 security interest in the vehicle from repossessing the vehicle and then
35 selling, leasing, or otherwise disposing of it in accordance with
36 chapter 62A.9 RCW, including providing redemption rights to the debtor
37 under RCW 62A.9-506. If the debtor is the registered owner of the
38 vehicle, the debtor's right to redeem the vehicle under chapter 62A.9
39 RCW is conditioned upon the debtor obtaining and providing proof from

1 the impounding authority or court having jurisdiction that any fines,
2 penalties, and forfeitures owed by the registered owner, as a result of
3 the suspended license impound, have been paid, and proof of the payment
4 must be tendered to the vehicle dealer or lender at the time the debtor
5 tenders all other obligations required to redeem the vehicle. Vehicle
6 dealers or lenders are not liable for damages if they rely in good
7 faith on an order from the impounding agency or a court in releasing a
8 vehicle held under a suspended license impound.

9 (e) The vehicle or other item of personal property registered or
10 titled with the department shall be released upon the presentation to
11 any person having custody of the vehicle of commercially reasonable
12 tender sufficient to cover the costs of towing, storage, or other
13 services rendered during the course of towing, removing, impounding, or
14 storing any such vehicle, with credit being given for the amount of any
15 security deposit paid under (b) of this subsection. In addition, if a
16 vehicle is impounded because the operator was arrested for a violation
17 of RCW 46.20.342 or 46.20.420 and was being operated by the registered
18 owner when it was impounded under local ordinance or agency rule, it
19 must not be released to any person until the registered owner
20 establishes with the agency that ordered the vehicle impounded or the
21 court having jurisdiction that any penalties, fines, or forfeitures
22 owed by him or her have been satisfied. Registered tow truck operators
23 are not liable for damages if they rely in good faith on an order from
24 the impounding agency or a court in releasing a vehicle held under a
25 suspended license impound. Commercially reasonable tender shall
26 include, without limitation, cash, major bank credit cards, or personal
27 checks drawn on in-state banks if accompanied by two pieces of valid
28 identification, one of which may be required by the operator to have a
29 photograph. If the towing firm can determine through the customer's
30 bank or a check verification service that the presented check would not
31 be paid by the bank or guaranteed by the service, the towing firm may
32 refuse to accept the check. Any person who stops payment on a personal
33 check or credit card, or does not make restitution within ten days from
34 the date a check becomes insufficient due to lack of funds, to a towing
35 firm that has provided a service pursuant to this section or in any
36 other manner defrauds the towing firm in connection with services
37 rendered pursuant to this section shall be liable for damages in the
38 amount of twice the towing and storage fees, plus costs and reasonable
39 attorney's fees.

1 (2)(a) The registered tow truck operator shall give to each person
2 who seeks to redeem an impounded vehicle, or item of personal property
3 registered or titled with the department, written notice of the right
4 of redemption and opportunity for a hearing, which notice shall be
5 accompanied by a form to be used for requesting a hearing, the name of
6 the person or agency authorizing the impound, and a copy of the towing
7 and storage invoice. The registered tow truck operator shall maintain
8 a record evidenced by the redeeming person's signature that such
9 notification was provided.

10 (b) Any person seeking to redeem an impounded vehicle under this
11 section has a right to a hearing in the district or municipal court for
12 the jurisdiction in which the vehicle was impounded to contest the
13 validity of the impoundment or the amount of towing and storage
14 charges. The district court has jurisdiction to determine the issues
15 involving all impoundments including those authorized by the state or
16 its agents. The municipal court has jurisdiction to determine the
17 issues involving impoundments authorized by agents of the municipality.
18 Any request for a hearing shall be made in writing on the form provided
19 for that purpose and must be received by the appropriate court within
20 ten days of the date the opportunity was provided for in subsection
21 (2)(a) of this section and more than five days before the date of the
22 auction. At the time of the filing of the hearing request, the
23 petitioner shall pay to the court clerk a filing fee in the same amount
24 required for the filing of a suit in district court. If the hearing
25 request is not received by the court within the ten-day period, the
26 right to a hearing is waived and the registered owner is liable for any
27 towing, storage, or other impoundment charges permitted under this
28 chapter. Upon receipt of a timely hearing request, the court shall
29 proceed to hear and determine the validity of the impoundment.

30 (3)(a) The court, within five days after the request for a hearing,
31 shall notify the registered tow truck operator, the person requesting
32 the hearing if not the owner, the registered and legal owners of the
33 vehicle or other item of personal property registered or titled with
34 the department, and the person or agency authorizing the impound in
35 writing of the hearing date and time.

36 (b) At the hearing, the person or persons requesting the hearing
37 may produce any relevant evidence to show that the impoundment, towing,
38 or storage fees charged were not proper. The court may consider a
39 written report made under oath by the officer who authorized the

1 impoundment in lieu of the officer's personal appearance at the
2 hearing.

3 (c) At the conclusion of the hearing, the court shall determine
4 whether the impoundment was proper, whether the towing or storage fees
5 charged were in compliance with the posted rates, and who is
6 responsible for payment of the fees. The court may not adjust fees or
7 charges that are in compliance with the posted or contracted rates.

8 (d) If the impoundment is found proper, the impoundment, towing,
9 and storage fees as permitted under this chapter together with court
10 costs shall be assessed against the person or persons requesting the
11 hearing, unless the operator did not have a signed and valid
12 impoundment authorization from a private property owner or an
13 authorized agent.

14 (e) If the impoundment is determined to be in violation of this
15 chapter, then the registered and legal owners of the vehicle or other
16 item of personal property registered or titled with the department
17 shall bear no impoundment, towing, or storage fees, and any security
18 shall be returned or discharged as appropriate, and the person or
19 agency who authorized the impoundment shall be liable for any towing,
20 storage, or other impoundment fees permitted under this chapter. The
21 court shall enter judgment in favor of the registered tow truck
22 operator against the person or agency authorizing the impound for the
23 impoundment, towing, and storage fees paid. In addition, the court
24 shall enter judgment in favor of the registered and legal owners of the
25 vehicle, or other item of personal property registered or titled with
26 the department, for the amount of the filing fee required by law for
27 the impound hearing petition as well as reasonable damages for loss of
28 the use of the vehicle during the time the same was impounded, for not
29 less than fifty dollars per day, against the person or agency
30 authorizing the impound. However, if an impoundment arising from an
31 alleged violation of RCW 46.20.342 or 46.20.420 is determined to be in
32 violation of this chapter, then the law enforcement officer directing
33 the impoundment and the government employing the officer are not liable
34 for damages if the officer relied in good faith and without gross
35 negligence on the records of the department in ascertaining that the
36 operator of the vehicle had a suspended or revoked driver's license.
37 If any judgment entered is not paid within fifteen days of notice in
38 writing of its entry, the court shall award reasonable attorneys' fees
39 and costs against the defendant in any action to enforce the judgment.

1 Notice of entry of judgment may be made by registered or certified
2 mail, and proof of mailing may be made by affidavit of the party
3 mailing the notice. Notice of the entry of the judgment shall read
4 essentially as follows:

5 TO:

6 YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED JUDGMENT was entered against you in the
7 Court located at in the sum of
8 \$., in an action entitled, Case No.
9 YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that attorneys fees and costs
10 will be awarded against you under RCW . . . if the judgment is
11 not paid within 15 days of the date of this notice.

12 DATED this day of, (year) . . .

13 Signature

14 Typed name and address
15 of party mailing notice

16 (4) Any impounded abandoned vehicle or item of personal property
17 registered or titled with the department that is not redeemed within
18 fifteen days of mailing of the notice of custody and sale as required
19 by RCW 46.55.110((+2)) (3) shall be sold at public auction in
20 accordance with all the provisions and subject to all the conditions of
21 RCW 46.55.130. A vehicle or item of personal property registered or
22 titled with the department may be redeemed at any time before the start
23 of the auction upon payment of the applicable towing and storage fees.

24 **Sec. 8.** RCW 46.55.130 and 1998 c 203 s 6 are each amended to read
25 as follows:

26 (1) If, after the expiration of fifteen days from the date of
27 mailing of notice of custody and sale required in RCW 46.55.110((+2))
28 (3) to the registered and legal owners, the vehicle remains unclaimed
29 and has not been listed as a stolen vehicle, or for which a suspended
30 license impound has been directed but no security paid under RCW
31 46.55.120, then the registered tow truck operator having custody of the
32 vehicle shall conduct a sale of the vehicle at public auction after
33 having first published a notice of the date, place, and time of the
34 auction in a newspaper of general circulation in the county in which
35 the vehicle is located not less than three days and no more than ten
36 days before the date of the auction. The notice shall contain a
37 description of the vehicle including the make, model, year, and license

1 number and a notification that a three-hour public viewing period will
2 be available before the auction. The auction shall be held during
3 daylight hours of a normal business day or a Saturday.

4 (2) The following procedures are required in any public auction of
5 such abandoned vehicles:

6 (a) The auction shall be held in such a manner that all persons
7 present are given an equal time and opportunity to bid;

8 (b) All bidders must be present at the time of auction unless they
9 have submitted to the registered tow truck operator, who may or may not
10 choose to use the preauction bid method, a written bid on a specific
11 vehicle. Written bids may be submitted up to five days before the
12 auction and shall clearly state which vehicle is being bid upon, the
13 amount of the bid, and who is submitting the bid;

14 (c) The open bid process, including all written bids, shall be used
15 so that everyone knows the dollar value that must be exceeded;

16 (d) The highest two bids received shall be recorded in written form
17 and shall include the name, address, and telephone number of each such
18 bidder;

19 (e) In case the high bidder defaults, the next bidder has the right
20 to purchase the vehicle for the amount of his or her bid;

21 (f) The successful bidder shall apply for title within fifteen
22 days;

23 (g) The registered tow truck operator shall post a copy of the
24 auction procedure at the bidding site. If the bidding site is
25 different from the licensed office location, the operator shall post a
26 clearly visible sign at the office location that describes in detail
27 where the auction will be held. At the bidding site a copy of the
28 newspaper advertisement that lists the vehicles for sale shall be
29 posted;

30 (h) All surplus moneys derived from the auction after satisfaction
31 of the registered tow truck operator's lien shall be remitted within
32 thirty days to the ~~((department for deposit in the state motor vehicle
33 fund. A report identifying the vehicles resulting in any surplus shall
34 accompany the remitted funds. If the director subsequently receives a
35 valid claim from the))~~ registered vehicle owner of record as determined
36 by the department ~~((within one year from the date of the auction, the
37 surplus moneys shall be remitted to such owner))~~;

38 (i) If an operator receives no bid, or if the operator is the
39 successful bidder at auction, the operator shall, within forty-five

1 days sell the vehicle to a licensed vehicle wrecker, hulk hauler, or
2 scrap processor by use of the abandoned vehicle report-affidavit of
3 sale, or the operator shall apply for title to the vehicle.

4 (3) In no case may an operator hold a vehicle for longer than
5 ninety days without holding an auction on the vehicle, except for
6 vehicles that are under a police or judicial hold.

7 (4)(a) In no case may the accumulation of storage charges exceed
8 fifteen days from the date of receipt of the information by the
9 operator from the department as provided by RCW 46.55.110(~~((+2))~~) (3).

10 (b) The failure of the registered tow truck operator to comply with
11 the time limits provided in this chapter limits the accumulation of
12 storage charges to five days except where delay is unavoidable.
13 Providing incorrect or incomplete identifying information to the
14 department in the abandoned vehicle report shall be considered a
15 failure to comply with these time limits if correct information is
16 available. However, storage charges begin to accrue again on the date
17 the correct and complete information is provided to the department by
18 the registered tow truck operator.

19 **Sec. 9.** RCW 46.61.625 and 1995 c 360 s 10 are each amended to read
20 as follows:

21 (1) No person or persons shall occupy any trailer while it is being
22 moved upon a public highway, except a person occupying a proper
23 position for steering a trailer designed to be steered from a rear-end
24 position.

25 (2) No person or persons may occupy a vehicle while it is being
26 towed by a tow truck as defined in RCW 46.55.010(~~((+8))~~).

27 **Sec. 10.** RCW 46.70.180 and 1997 c 153 s 1 are each amended to read
28 as follows:

29 Each of the following acts or practices is unlawful:

30 (1) To cause or permit to be advertised, printed, displayed,
31 published, distributed, broadcasted, televised, or disseminated in any
32 manner whatsoever, any statement or representation with regard to the
33 sale or financing of a vehicle which is false, deceptive, or
34 misleading, including but not limited to the following:

35 (a) That no down payment is required in connection with the sale of
36 a vehicle when a down payment is in fact required, or that a vehicle
37 may be purchased for a smaller down payment than is actually required;

1 (b) That a certain percentage of the sale price of a vehicle may be
2 financed when such financing is not offered in a single document
3 evidencing the entire security transaction;

4 (c) That a certain percentage is the amount of the service charge
5 to be charged for financing, without stating whether this percentage
6 charge is a monthly amount or an amount to be charged per year;

7 (d) That a new vehicle will be sold for a certain amount above or
8 below cost without computing cost as the exact amount of the factory
9 invoice on the specific vehicle to be sold;

10 (e) That a vehicle will be sold upon a monthly payment of a certain
11 amount, without including in the statement the number of payments of
12 that same amount which are required to liquidate the unpaid purchase
13 price.

14 (2) To incorporate within the terms of any purchase and sale
15 agreement any statement or representation with regard to the sale or
16 financing of a vehicle which is false, deceptive, or misleading,
17 including but not limited to terms that include as an added cost to the
18 selling price of a vehicle an amount for licensing or transfer of title
19 of that vehicle which is not actually due to the state, unless such
20 amount has in fact been paid by the dealer prior to such sale.

21 (3) To set up, promote, or aid in the promotion of a plan by which
22 vehicles are to be sold to a person for a consideration and upon
23 further consideration that the purchaser agrees to secure one or more
24 persons to participate in the plan by respectively making a similar
25 purchase and in turn agreeing to secure one or more persons likewise to
26 join in said plan, each purchaser being given the right to secure
27 money, credits, goods, or something of value, depending upon the number
28 of persons joining the plan.

29 (4) To commit, allow, or ratify any act of "bushing" which is
30 defined as follows: Taking from a prospective buyer of a vehicle a
31 written order or offer to purchase, or a contract document signed by
32 the buyer, which:

33 (a) Is subject to the dealer's, or his or her authorized
34 representative's future acceptance, and the dealer fails or refuses
35 within three calendar days, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, or legal
36 holiday, and prior to any further negotiations with said buyer, either
37 (i) to deliver to the buyer the dealer's signed acceptance, or (ii) to
38 void the order, offer, or contract document and tender the return of
39 any initial payment or security made or given by the buyer, including

1 but not limited to money, check, promissory note, vehicle keys, a
2 trade-in, or certificate of title to a trade-in; or

3 (b) Permits the dealer to renegotiate a dollar amount specified as
4 trade-in allowance on a vehicle delivered or to be delivered by the
5 buyer as part of the purchase price, for any reason except:

6 (i) Failure to disclose that the vehicle's certificate of ownership
7 has been branded for any reason, including, but not limited to, status
8 as a rebuilt vehicle as provided in RCW 46.12.050 and 46.12.075; or

9 (ii) Substantial physical damage or latent mechanical defect
10 occurring before the dealer took possession of the vehicle and which
11 could not have been reasonably discoverable at the time of the taking
12 of the order, offer, or contract; or

13 (iii) Excessive additional miles or a discrepancy in the mileage.
14 "Excessive additional miles" means the addition of five hundred miles
15 or more, as reflected on the vehicle's odometer, between the time the
16 vehicle was first valued by the dealer for purposes of determining its
17 trade-in value and the time of actual delivery of the vehicle to the
18 dealer. "A discrepancy in the mileage" means (A) a discrepancy between
19 the mileage reflected on the vehicle's odometer and the stated mileage
20 on the signed odometer statement; or (B) a discrepancy between the
21 mileage stated on the signed odometer statement and the actual mileage
22 on the vehicle; or

23 (c) Fails to comply with the obligation of any written warranty or
24 guarantee given by the dealer requiring the furnishing of services or
25 repairs within a reasonable time.

26 (5) To commit any offense relating to odometers, as such offenses
27 are defined in RCW 46.37.540, 46.37.550, 46.37.560, and 46.37.570. A
28 violation of this subsection is a class C felony punishable under
29 chapter 9A.20 RCW.

30 (6) For any vehicle dealer or vehicle salesperson to refuse to
31 furnish, upon request of a prospective purchaser, for vehicles
32 previously registered to a business or governmental entity, the name
33 and address of the business or governmental entity.

34 (7) To commit any other offense under RCW 46.37.423, 46.37.424, or
35 46.37.425.

36 (8) To commit any offense relating to a dealer's temporary license
37 permit, including but not limited to failure to properly complete each
38 such permit, or the issuance of more than one such permit on any one

1 vehicle. However, a dealer may issue a second temporary permit on a
2 vehicle if the following conditions are met:

3 (a) The lienholder fails to deliver the vehicle title to the dealer
4 within the required time period;

5 (b) The dealer has satisfied the lien; and

6 (c) The dealer has proof that payment of the lien was made within
7 two calendar days, exclusive of Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday,
8 after the sales contract has been executed by all parties and all
9 conditions and contingencies in the sales contract have been met or
10 otherwise satisfied.

11 (9) For a dealer, salesman, or mobile home manufacturer, having
12 taken an instrument or cash "on deposit" from a purchaser prior to the
13 delivery of the bargained-for vehicle, to commingle the "on deposit"
14 funds with assets of the dealer, salesman, or mobile home manufacturer
15 instead of holding the "on deposit" funds as trustee in a separate
16 trust account until the purchaser has taken delivery of the bargained-
17 for vehicle. Delivery of a manufactured home shall be deemed to occur
18 in accordance with RCW 46.70.135(5). Failure, immediately upon
19 receipt, to endorse "on deposit" instruments to such a trust account,
20 or to set aside "on deposit" cash for deposit in such trust account,
21 and failure to deposit such instruments or cash in such trust account
22 by the close of banking hours on the day following receipt thereof,
23 shall be evidence of intent to commit this unlawful practice:
24 PROVIDED, HOWEVER, That a motor vehicle dealer may keep a separate
25 trust account which equals his or her customary total customer deposits
26 for vehicles for future delivery. For purposes of this section, "on
27 deposit" funds received from a purchaser of a manufactured home means
28 those funds that a seller requires a purchaser to advance before
29 ordering the manufactured home, but does not include any loan proceeds
30 or moneys that might have been paid on an installment contract.

31 (10) For a dealer or manufacturer to fail to comply with the
32 obligations of any written warranty or guarantee given by the dealer or
33 manufacturer requiring the furnishing of goods and services or repairs
34 within a reasonable period of time, or to fail to furnish to a
35 purchaser, all parts which attach to the manufactured unit including
36 but not limited to the undercarriage, and all items specified in the
37 terms of a sales agreement signed by the seller and buyer.

38 (11) For a vehicle dealer to pay to or receive from any person,
39 firm, partnership, association, or corporation acting, either directly

1 or through a subsidiary, as a buyer's agent for consumers, any
2 compensation, fee, purchase moneys or funds that have been deposited
3 into or withdrawn out of any account controlled or used by any buyer's
4 agent, gratuity, or reward in connection with the purchase or sale of
5 a new motor vehicle.

6 (12) For a buyer's agent, acting directly or through a subsidiary,
7 to pay to or to receive from any motor vehicle dealer any compensation,
8 fee, gratuity, or reward in connection with the purchase or sale of a
9 new motor vehicle. In addition, it is unlawful for any buyer's agent
10 to engage in any of the following acts on behalf of or in the name of
11 the consumer:

12 (a) Receiving or paying any purchase moneys or funds into or out of
13 any account controlled or used by any buyer's agent;

14 (b) Signing any vehicle purchase orders, sales contract, odometer
15 statements, or title documents, or having the name of the buyer's agent
16 appear on the vehicle purchase order, sales contract, or title; or

17 (c) Signing any other documentation relating to the purchase, sale,
18 or transfer of any new motor vehicle.

19 It is unlawful for a buyer's agent to use a power of attorney
20 obtained from the consumer to accomplish or effect the purchase, sale,
21 or transfer of ownership documents of any new motor vehicle by any
22 means which would otherwise be prohibited under (a) through (c) of this
23 subsection. However, the buyer's agent may use a power of attorney for
24 physical delivery of motor vehicle license plates to the consumer.

25 Further, it is unlawful for a buyer's agent to engage in any false,
26 deceptive, or misleading advertising, disseminated in any manner
27 whatsoever, including but not limited to making any claim or statement
28 that the buyer's agent offers, obtains, or guarantees the lowest price
29 on any motor vehicle or words to similar effect.

30 (13) For a buyer's agent to arrange for or to negotiate the
31 purchase, or both, of a new motor vehicle through an out-of-state
32 dealer without disclosing in writing to the customer that the new
33 vehicle would not be subject to chapter 19.118 RCW. In addition, it is
34 unlawful for any buyer's agent to fail to have a written agreement with
35 the customer that: (a) Sets forth the terms of the parties' agreement;
36 (b) discloses to the customer the total amount of any fees or other
37 compensation being paid by the customer to the buyer's agent for the
38 agent's services; and (c) further discloses whether the fee or any
39 portion of the fee is refundable. The department of licensing shall by

1 December 31, 1996, in rule, adopt standard disclosure language for
2 buyer's agent agreements under RCW 46.70.011, 46.70.070, and this
3 section.

4 (14) Being a manufacturer, other than a motorcycle manufacturer
5 governed by chapter 46.94 RCW, to:

6 (a) Coerce or attempt to coerce any vehicle dealer to order or
7 accept delivery of any vehicle or vehicles, parts or accessories, or
8 any other commodities which have not been voluntarily ordered by the
9 vehicle dealer: PROVIDED, That recommendation, endorsement,
10 exposition, persuasion, urging, or argument are not deemed to
11 constitute coercion;

12 (b) Cancel or fail to renew the franchise or selling agreement of
13 any vehicle dealer doing business in this state without fairly
14 compensating the dealer at a fair going business value for his or her
15 capital investment which shall include but not be limited to tools,
16 equipment, and parts inventory possessed by the dealer on the day he or
17 she is notified of such cancellation or termination and which are still
18 within the dealer's possession on the day the cancellation or
19 termination is effective, if: (i) The capital investment has been
20 entered into with reasonable and prudent business judgment for the
21 purpose of fulfilling the franchise; and (ii) the cancellation or
22 nonrenewal was not done in good faith. Good faith is defined as the
23 duty of each party to any franchise to act in a fair and equitable
24 manner towards each other, so as to guarantee one party freedom from
25 coercion, intimidation, or threats of coercion or intimidation from the
26 other party: PROVIDED, That recommendation, endorsement, exposition,
27 persuasion, urging, or argument are not deemed to constitute a lack of
28 good faith.

29 (c) Encourage, aid, abet, or teach a vehicle dealer to sell
30 vehicles through any false, deceptive, or misleading sales or financing
31 practices including but not limited to those practices declared
32 unlawful in this section;

33 (d) Coerce or attempt to coerce a vehicle dealer to engage in any
34 practice forbidden in this section by either threats of actual
35 cancellation or failure to renew the dealer's franchise agreement;

36 (e) Refuse to deliver any vehicle publicly advertised for immediate
37 delivery to any duly licensed vehicle dealer having a franchise or
38 contractual agreement for the retail sale of new and unused vehicles
39 sold or distributed by such manufacturer within sixty days after such

1 dealer's order has been received in writing unless caused by inability
2 to deliver because of shortage or curtailment of material, labor,
3 transportation, or utility services, or by any labor or production
4 difficulty, or by any cause beyond the reasonable control of the
5 manufacturer;

6 (f) To provide under the terms of any warranty that a purchaser of
7 any new or unused vehicle that has been sold, distributed for sale, or
8 transferred into this state for resale by the vehicle manufacturer may
9 only make any warranty claim on any item included as an integral part
10 of the vehicle against the manufacturer of that item.

11 Nothing in this section may be construed to impair the obligations
12 of a contract or to prevent a manufacturer, distributor,
13 representative, or any other person, whether or not licensed under this
14 chapter, from requiring performance of a written contract entered into
15 with any licensee hereunder, nor does the requirement of such
16 performance constitute a violation of any of the provisions of this
17 section if any such contract or the terms thereof requiring
18 performance, have been freely entered into and executed between the
19 contracting parties. This paragraph and subsection (14)(b) of this
20 section do not apply to new motor vehicle manufacturers governed by
21 chapter 46.96 RCW.

22 (15) Unlawful transfer of an ownership interest in a motor vehicle
23 as defined in RCW 19.116.050.

24 (16) To knowingly and intentionally engage in collusion with a
25 registered owner of a vehicle to repossess and return or resell the
26 vehicle to the registered owner in an attempt to avoid a suspended
27 license impound under chapter 46.55 RCW. However, compliance with
28 chapter 62A.9 RCW in repossessing, selling, leasing, or otherwise
29 disposing of the vehicle, including providing redemption rights to the
30 debtor, is not a violation of this section.

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