
HOUSE BILL 2629

State of Washington 53rd Legislature 1994 Regular Session

By Representatives R. Fisher, Appelwick, Campbell, Sommers, Edmondson and Dorn

Read first time 01/19/94. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to junk vehicles; and amending RCW 46.55.010.

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

3 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.55.010 and 1991 c 292 s 1 are each amended to read
4 as follows:

5 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this
6 chapter:

7 (1) "Abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle that a registered tow truck
8 operator has impounded and held in the operator's possession for
9 ninety-six consecutive hours.

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

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

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

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

4 (4) "Junk vehicle" means a vehicle certified under RCW 46.55.230 as
5 meeting ~~((all))~~ the following requirements:

6 (a) Is three years old or older;

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

10 (c) Is apparently inoperable;

11 ~~(d) ((Is without a valid, current registration plate;~~
12 ~~(e)))~~ Has an approximate fair market value equal only to the
13 approximate value of the scrap in it.

14 (5) "Master log" means the document or an electronic facsimile
15 prescribed by the department and the Washington state patrol in which
16 an operator records transactions involving impounded vehicles.

17 (6) "Registered tow truck operator" or "operator" means any person
18 who engages in the impounding, transporting, or storage of unauthorized
19 vehicles or the disposal of abandoned vehicles.

20 (7) "Residential property" means property that has no more than
21 four living units located on it.

22 (8) "Tow truck" means a motor vehicle that is equipped for and used
23 in the business of towing vehicles with equipment as approved by the
24 state patrol.

25 (9) "Tow truck number" means the number issued by the department to
26 tow trucks used by a registered tow truck operator in the state of
27 Washington.

28 (10) "Tow truck permit" means the permit issued annually by the
29 department that has the classification of service the tow truck may
30 provide stamped upon it.

31 (11) "Tow truck service" means the transporting upon the public
32 streets and highways of this state of vehicles, together with personal
33 effects and cargo, by a tow truck of a registered operator.

34 (12) "Unauthorized vehicle" means a vehicle that is subject to
35 impoundment after being left unattended in one of the following public
36 or private locations for the indicated period of time:

1

2 (a) Public locations:

3 (i) Constituting an accident or a traffic hazard as defined in RCW
4 46.55.113 Immediately

5 (ii) On a highway and tagged as described in RCW
6 46.55.085 24 hours

7 (iii) In a publicly owned or controlled parking
8 facility, properly posted under RCW 46.55.070 Immediately

9 (b) Private locations:

10 (i) On residential property Immediately

11 (ii) On private, nonresidential property, properly
12 posted under RCW 46.55.070 Immediately

13 (iii) On private, nonresidential property, not
14 posted 24 hours

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