

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SHB 1892

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As Reported By Senate Committee On:  
Transportation, March 26, 2007

**Title:** An act relating to the impoundment of vehicles by police officers.

**Brief Description:** Addressing the impoundment of vehicles parked on public streets by police officers.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Goodman, Rodne, O'Brien, Jarrett, Lovick and Priest).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 3/12/07, 90-8.

**Committee Activity:** Transportation: 3/22/07, 3/26/07 [DP, DNP].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

**Majority Report:** Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Marr, Vice Chair; Murray, Vice Chair; Swecker, Ranking Minority Member; Berkey, Delvin, Jacobsen, Kastama, Kilmer and Spanel.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Clements, Kauffman and Sheldon.

**Staff:** Janice Baumgardt (786-7319)

**Background:** A police officer is allowed by statute to take custody of a motor vehicle and have it impounded under the following circumstances:

- if the vehicle's driver is arrested for certain offenses or taken into custody;
- when the officer finds the vehicle unattended upon a highway where the vehicle is an obstruction to traffic or jeopardizes public safety;
- when the vehicle is stolen;
- when the vehicle is illegally parked; and
- upon a determination that a person is operating the vehicle without a valid driver's license.

**Summary of Substitute Bill:** The list of circumstances under which a police officer may take custody of a motor vehicle and have it impounded is expanded to include vehicles parked on a public street that have a registration that expired more than 45 days previously.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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*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.*

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: This will help get clunkers that aren't being driven out of parking spaces so that others can use the space.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Representative Goodman, prime sponsor; Tom Parker, City of Spokane.