
Transportation Committee

HB 2495

Brief Description: Addressing the removal of vehicles by certain cities when obstructing the operation of streetcar vehicles or jeopardizing public safety.

Sponsors: Representatives Thomas, Reed, Scott, Fitzgibbon, Ryu, Parshley, Macri, Street, Pollet and Obras.

<p style="text-align: center;">Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allows certain cities to have their authorized representatives direct the impoundment of vehicles obstructing streetcar operations, if the vehicle is within the right-of-way used for streetcar operations.
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Hearing Date: 1/26/26

Staff: David Munnecke (786-7315).

Background:

Unauthorized vehicles may be impounded by a registered tow truck operator (RTTO) at the direction of a law enforcement officer or other public official with jurisdiction, if the vehicle is on public property, or at the direction of the property owner or an agent. A vehicle is deemed unauthorized if it is left unattended in certain public or private locations. A vehicle is immediately considered an unauthorized vehicle and subject to removal if it is:

- determined by a police officer to be an accident or traffic hazard;
- in a publicly owned or controlled parking facility with proper posted signage;
- on residential property;
- on private, nonresidential property with proper posted signage; or
- within the right-of-way used by a Regional Transit Authority for high capacity transportation where the vehicle constitutes an obstruction to the operation of high

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capacity transportation vehicles or jeopardizes public safety.

The City of Seattle is the only city in Washington with a population greater than 700,000.

Summary of Bill:

A vehicle is considered an unauthorized vehicle and is subject to immediate removal by an RTTO if it is left unattended within a right-of-way used by a city with a population greater than 700,000 for streetcar operations, where the vehicle obstructs the operation of a streetcar vehicle or jeopardizes public safety. An authorized representative of a city with a population greater than 700,000 may request an impound for this type of unauthorized vehicle.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.