
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1530

State of Washington

69th Legislature

2025 Regular Session

By House Consumer Protection & Business (originally sponsored by Representatives Walen and McClintock)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/25.

1 AN ACT Relating to modernizing payment systems by expanding
2 consumer-friendly transaction options for registered tow truck
3 operators and regulated businesses; adding a new section to chapter
4 46.55 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that registered
7 tow truck operators play a critical role in maintaining public safety
8 and ensuring the smooth operation of transportation systems across
9 Washington state. A significant portion of their work involves
10 responding to calls from law enforcement, fire departments, and other
11 public agencies, often under urgent and challenging conditions.
12 Despite the essential nature of their services, registered tow truck
13 operators in Washington state frequently do not receive compensation
14 for many of the vehicles they are required to tow. This creates a
15 substantial financial burden, especially for small businesses
16 operating in this sector.

17 (2) Furthermore, while unregulated businesses are permitted to
18 recover credit card processing fees by transparently passing those
19 costs on to consumers, tow truck operators are not afforded this same
20 ability. This results in an economic disadvantage, particularly for
21 operators already facing significant expenses related to unreimbursed

1 tows and the costs of maintaining compliance with state regulations.
2 Notably, the state of Washington itself imposes convenience fees on
3 consumers for credit and debit card transactions related to state
4 services, including licensing, property taxes, and court payments. In
5 2021, Washington state enacted legislation requiring the department
6 of licensing to charge transaction fees for credit card payments,
7 further illustrating the necessity of such cost-recovery mechanisms.
8 For example, RCW 46.01.235 authorizes the department of licensing to
9 charge fees for electronic payment transactions.

10 (3) The legislature recognizes the urgent need to modernize
11 payment systems for tow truck operators, ensuring they can recover
12 credit card transaction fees in a transparent and consumer-friendly
13 manner. This modernization would foster fairness and economic
14 sustainability.

15 (4) By addressing these inequities, this act aims to support tow
16 truck operators providing essential public safety services, promote
17 fair economic practices, and ensure consumers continue to have access
18 to transparent payment options. Establishing a consistent framework
19 for credit card transaction fees will help preserve the viability of
20 critical services while protecting consumer choice.

21 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.55
22 RCW to read as follows:

23 (1) Tow truck operators are allowed to charge a transaction fee
24 for processing a credit card payment provided that:

25 (a) A no-cost payment option is always available to the consumer;
26 and

27 (b) The no-cost payment option is disclosed to the consumer at
28 the same time and in the same manner as the consumer's credit card
29 information is taken.

30 (2) The transaction fee amount shall not exceed three percent of
31 the payment amount.

32 (3) For purposes of this section, "credit card payment" means any
33 payment made by a credit card that incurs an interchange fee and does
34 not include payments made by debit cards.

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