



2023 Legislative Priorities

2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BILL REPORT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2023

TRAW Sponsoring:

HB 1688 - Excess Funds Indigent Payment

- Allows for the money in the excess fund account at DOL to be used to pay for towing and storage for low income and indigent customers that have no means to pay their towing and storage bill to an RTTO.
- Would create a self-certifying form that the indigent customer fills out and the RTTO submits to the State for payment from the excess funds account.

Sponsors: *Representatives Hackney*

STATUS HB: Waiting to be Referred to Committee

SB 5652 - 1st Party Liability Insurance

- Currently, the RTTO is not eligible for reimbursement under the liability coverage of a vehicle operator because the RTTO has not been “damaged” by the illegal or negligent act of the vehicle operator.
- Places the RTTO in the same legal position for recovery of fees and costs as the State of Washington when the RTTO is required to respond to a law enforcement or qualified agency request for vehicle impound and or road clearing work.
- Would allow an RTTO to bill the insurance company directly to be paid for their work.

Sponsors: *Senators Lovick*

STATUS SB: Waiting to be Referred to Committee

DOR Sales Tax Repeal

- Repeal tax exemptions for qualifying sales of abandoned vehicles by RTTOs, established by SSB 5668 (2019).
- Create sales, use, and business and occupation (B&O) tax exemptions for towing and storage charges associated with abandoned vehicles sold by RTTOs at auction or to a licensed vehicle wrecker, hulk hauler, or scrap processor, when there is no successful bidder at auction.

Tax Changes: Towing and storage charges would be exempt from sales, use, and B&O taxes. However, sales of abandoned vehicles at auction would be subject to B&O tax, sales and use tax, and the motor vehicle sales and leases tax.

STATUS: Waiting for Sen. Judy Warnick to Drop Bill

Credit Card Merchant Fees

- Broad bill that would apply to all regulated businesses whose prices or charges are set and who are not allowed to change their prices at will.
- Permits a RTTO to add credit card merchant fees to the payment of an invoice for towing and storage and ancillary fees when a credit card is used to make payment.
- Requires that the fee be disclosed to the customer and that a free method of payment be available for customers.

STATUS: Waiting for Sponsorship between Competing Legislators

TRAW Supportive – Not Sponsoring:

HB 1485/SB 5023: Roadside Safety Measures

- The emergency tow trucks may also operate rear facing blue lights for use only at the scene of an emergency or accident. The red lights may be used when the tow truck is reentering the roadway from the scene of an emergency or accident for a reasonable distance to reach operating speed from the scene, and the combination of red and blue lights may be used only at the scene of an emergency or accident.

Sponsors: *Representatives Orcutt, Wylie, Donaghy, Ryu, Leavitt; Senators: Wilson, J., Lovick, Kuderer, Liias, Wellman*

STATUS HB: House Transportation Committee

STATUS SB: Senate Rules Committee

HB 1414 – Regional Transit Authority (RTA) vehicle removal

- Allows Regional Transit Authority (RTA) representatives to direct an immediate tow of unauthorized vehicles on or within 10 feet of an RTA right-of-way.

Sponsors: *Representatives Mena, Fitzgibbon, Bronoske, Riccelli, Barkis, Reed*

STATUS HB: House Transportation Committee

HB 1660 - Minimum Bid for RVs at Auction

- Establishes a minimum bid for an abandoned RV at auction of \$2,000.
- Permits an RTTO to certify an impounded RV as junk and not be bound by the notice rules for abandonment and sale at auction.
- The RV could be taken to a certified dismantler or scrapper upon impound and qualify for reimbursement under the Abandoned RV Reimbursement Program

Sponsors: *Representatives Christian, Riccelli, Hutchins, Schmidt, Couture, Connors, Sandlin, Bergquist, Eslick, Chambers*

STATUS HB: House Transportation Committee



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