

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 1276

By: Seikel of the House

and

Morgan of the Senate

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 954A, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 50, O.S.L. 1995 (47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 954A), which relates to abandoned motor vehicles; stating rate limitations for wrecker and towing services used under certain circumstances; specifying time period for providing certain information; stating exemption from storage fees under certain circumstances; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 954A, as amended by Section 5, Chapter 50, O.S.L. 1995 (47 O.S. Supp. 1998, Section 954A), is amended to read as follows:

Section 954A. A. In addition to any procedure provided by local ordinance, whenever the owner or legal possessor of real property or an authorized agent has reasonable cause to believe that a vehicle has been abandoned thereon, said vehicle having been on said property for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours, or whenever a vehicle is left upon said real property without express or implied permission, such vehicle may be removed as provided in this section.

B. The owner, legal possessor or authorized agent may request any licensed wrecker or towing service within the county wherein the real property is located to remove the abandoned vehicle from the premises by signing a Tow Request and Authorization Form prescribed by the Department and furnished to licensed wrecker operators as hereinafter provided.

C. A licensed wrecker or towing service removing an abandoned vehicle pursuant to this section shall be subject to the maximum rates authorized by Section 953.1 of this title.

D. The Department shall design and promulgate a suitable Tow Request and Authorization Form to be completed in quadruplicate, containing space for the following information:

1. A description of the vehicle, including the type of vehicle, year of manufacture, name of the manufacturer, vehicle color or colors, identification number and license tag number;

2. The name, address and business telephone number of the wrecker or towing service;

3. The name, address and telephone number of the real property owner, legal possessor or authorized agent;

4. Inventory of personal property within the vehicle to be towed;

5. Time and date the form is completed; and

6. Signatures of the driver of the wrecker vehicle and of the owner, legal possessor or authorized agent of the real property.

The Department may require additional information on the Tow Request and Authorization Form.

~~D.~~ E. The real property owner, legal possessor or authorized agent and the wrecker vehicle driver shall jointly, and each in the presence of the other, inventory personal property found within or upon the vehicle and each shall accordingly sign a statement on the form reflecting this requirement has been fulfilled. In the event an inventory cannot be completed, the reasons therefor shall be clearly stated on the form.

~~E.~~ F. A copy of the completed Tow Request and Authorization Form shall be retained by the signatories and the wrecker or towing service shall maintain the wrecker vehicle driver's copy for not less than one (1) year, or longer if required by the Department. The wrecker or towing service shall forthwith send the completed original Tow Request and Authorization Form to the Department and the remaining copy of the completed form to the local police department of the municipality in which the real property is located, if any.

~~F.~~ G. Within seventy-two (72) hours of the time indicated on the form, the wrecker or towing service shall request the Oklahoma Tax Commission or other appropriate motor license agent to furnish the name and address of the current owner of and any lienholder upon the vehicle. The Tax Commission or appropriate motor license agent shall respond in person or by certified mail to the wrecker or towing service within five (5) business days from the receipt of the request for information. The Department may render assistance to ascertain ownership, if needed. The wrecker or towing service shall, within seven (7) days from receipt of the requested information from the Oklahoma Tax Commission or other motor license agent, send a notice of the location of the vehicle by ~~regular~~ certified mail, postage prepaid, at the addresses furnished, to the owner and any lienholder of the vehicle. The owner or lienholder may regain possession of the vehicle in accordance with rules of the Department upon payment of the wrecker or towing services, costs of certified mailing and the reasonable cost of towing and storage of the vehicle. If the wrecker or towing service has not complied with the notification procedures required by this subsection, the owner or lienholder shall not be required to pay for storage of the vehicle.

~~G.~~ H. No wrecker or towing service or operator of a wrecker or towing service shall tow or cause to be towed a vehicle pursuant to this section until the form furnished by the Department has been appropriately completed by the parties as required by rules of the Department.

SECTION 2. This act shall become effective July 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 19th day of May, 1999.

Speaker of the House of
Representatives

Passed the Senate the 19th day of May, 1999.

President of the Senate