

ENROLLED SENATE
BILL NO. 968

By: Helton and Martin of the
Senate

and

McCarter, Kirby, Tyler and
Glover of the House

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2001, Sections 904.1, 952, 953.2, as amended by Section 4 of Enrolled House Bill No. 2673 of the 2nd Session of the 48th Oklahoma Legislature, and 955, which relate to lienholders, fees and charges for wrecker or towing services, rotation logs and grounds for towing vehicle from roadway; clarifying language; adding qualifications for licensed wrecker and towing services; providing exception; modifying after-hours release rate; and authorizing officer to call a wrecker or towing service not on rotation log in certain circumstances.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2001, Section 904.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 904.1 A lienholder as used in Sections 903, 904 and 954A of ~~Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes~~ this title shall mean those lienholders as shown on the vehicle title.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2001, Section 952, is amended to read as follows:

Section 952. A. The Department of Public Safety shall have the power and authority necessary to license, supervise, govern and control wrecker vehicles and wrecker or towing services.

B. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt and prescribe such rules as are necessary to carry out the intent of Section 951 et seq. of this title.

The rules shall state the requirements for facilities, for storage of vehicles, necessary towing equipment, the records to be kept by operators, liability insurance and insurance covering the vehicle and its contents while in storage in such sum and with such provisions as the Department deems necessary to adequately protect the interests of the public, and such other matters as the Department may prescribe for the protection of the public.

C. Unless otherwise regulated by the governing body of the political subdivision, the wrecker vehicle used to perform wrecker or towing services requested by a political subdivision of this state for removal of a vehicle from public property for reasons listed in Section 955 of this title shall be from the licensed wrecker or towing service whose location is nearest to the vehicle to be towed. Requests for service may be alternated or rotated among all such licensed wrecker or towing services which are located within a reasonable radius of each other. In cities of less than fifty thousand (50,000) population, all such licensed wrecker or towing services located near or in the city limits of such cities shall be considered as being equal distance and shall be called on an equal basis as nearly as possible.

D. ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Department and any municipality, county or other political subdivision of this state may shall not place any licensed wrecker or towing service whose facilities are located within Oklahoma, upon an official rotation log for the performance of services carried out pursuant to the request of or at the direction of any officer of the Department or municipality, county or political subdivision unless the service meets the following requirements:

1. Principal business facilities are located within Oklahoma;
2. Tow trucks are registered and licensed in Oklahoma; and
3. Owner is a resident of the State of Oklahoma.

In the event a licensed wrecker or towing service is not located within a county, a wrecker or towing service that is located outside of the county or this state and does not meet the above qualifications may be placed on the rotation log for the county or any municipality or political subdivision located within the county.

When performing services at the request of any officer, no operator or wrecker or towing service upon the rotation logs shall charge fees in excess of the maximum rates for services performed within this state, including incorporated and unincorporated areas, as prescribed in Section 953.1 of this title.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2001, Section 953.2, as amended by Section 4 of Enrolled House Bill No. 2673 of the 2nd Session of the 48th Oklahoma Legislature, is amended to read as follows:

Section 953.2 A. The rates and provisions of this section shall apply to determine the maximum fees and charges for the storage and after-hours release of towed vehicles, including incorporated and unincorporated areas, by a wrecker or towing service licensed by the Department of Public Safety. No wrecker or towing service shall charge any fee which exceeds the maximum rates established in this section. Such rates shall be in addition to any other rates, fees or charges authorized or required by law.

B. 1. Storage or after-hours release of a towed vehicle, or both, provided by a wrecker or towing service shall be recorded by the operator on a bill or invoice as prescribed by rules of the Department.

2. Nothing herein shall limit the right of an operator who has provided or caused to be provided storage or after-hours release of a towed vehicle, or both, to require prepayment, in part or in full, or guarantee of payment of any charges incurred for providing such services.

3. This section shall not be construed to require an operator to charge a fee for the storage or after-hours release, or both, of any towed vehicle.

4. The operator is authorized to collect all lawful fees from the owner, lienholder or agent of the towed vehicle or insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for a vehicle or purchasing the vehicle as a total loss vehicle from the registered owner for the performance of any and all such services. An operator shall release the vehicle from storage upon authorization from the owner, agent or lienholder of the vehicle or in the case of a total loss, the insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for the vehicle or purchasing the vehicle where the vehicle is to be moved to an insurance pool yard for sale.

C. Outdoor Storage Rates.

1. Rates in this subsection shall apply to the outdoor storage of a towed vehicle. Rates may be applied from the time the towed vehicle is brought onto the outdoor storage facility premises. Rates shall apply to each calendar day of outdoor storage; provided, the maximum twenty-four-hour fee, as provided for in this section, may be charged for any towed vehicle which is stored for a portion of a twenty-four-hour period.

2. Maximum outdoor storage rates shall be as follows:

Type of Towed Vehicle	Rate per Each 24-hour Period or Portion Thereof
Single vehicle: motorcycle, automobile, or light truck up to 20 feet in length	\$15.00
Single vehicle or combination of vehicles over 20 feet in length but less than 30 feet in length	\$20.00
Single vehicle or combination of vehicles over 30 feet in length and up to 8 feet in width	\$25.00
Single vehicle or combination of vehicles over 30 feet in length and over 8 feet in width	\$35.00

D. Indoor Storage Rates:

1. Rates in this subsection shall apply to the indoor storage of a towed vehicle. Rates may be applied from the time the towed vehicle is brought into the indoor storage facility premises. Rates shall apply to each calendar day of indoor storage; provided, the maximum twenty-four-hour fee, as provided for in this section, may be charged for any towed vehicle which is stored for a portion of a twenty-four-hour period.

2. Maximum indoor storage rates shall be as follows:

Type of Towed Vehicle	Rate per Each 24-hour Period or Portion Thereof
Single vehicle: motorcycle, automobile, or light truck up to 20 feet in length	\$25.00
Single vehicle or combination of vehicles over 20 feet in length but less than 30 feet in length	\$30.00
Single vehicle or combination of vehicles over 30 feet in length and up to 8 feet in width	\$35.00
Single vehicle or combination of vehicles over 30 feet in length and over 8 feet in width	\$45.00

3. For purposes of this subsection, "indoor storage" means the vehicle is kept in an enclosed facility.

E. After-Hours Release Rate.

1. The rate in this subsection shall apply to the release of a towed vehicle to the owner, lienholder, or agent when such release occurs at a time other than normal business hours.

2. As used in this subsection:

- a. "after-hours release rate" shall mean the rate charged for the release of a towed vehicle between the hours of midnight and 8:00 a.m., or between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight Monday through Friday, or any time on Saturday, Sunday or a national holiday, and
- b. "national holiday" shall mean New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, George Washington's Birthday, on the third Monday in February, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, and shall further include the Friday before such national holiday which falls on a Saturday and the Monday following such national holiday which falls on a Sunday.

3. The maximum after-hours release rate shall be ~~Five Dollars (\$5.00)~~ Eleven Dollars and sixty-nine cents (\$11.69) per quarter hour for the release of any single vehicle or combination of vehicles.

F. An operator shall be required to provide reasonable documentation to substantiate all lawful fees charged the owner, lienholder, agent or insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for the towed vehicle or purchasing the towed vehicle. Fees for which the operator is being reimbursed, or having paid to a third party, shall include copies of the invoice or other appropriate documents to substantiate the payment to the third party.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2001, Section 955, is amended to read as follows:

Section 955. A. Any officer of the Department of Public Safety or any other political subdivision of this state is hereby authorized to cause to be towed any vehicle found upon the roadway when:

1. Report has been made that such vehicle has been stolen or taken without the consent of its owner;

2. The officer has reason to believe the vehicle has been abandoned as defined in Sections 901 and 902 of this title;

3. The person driving or in control of such vehicle is arrested for an alleged offense for which the officer is required by law to take the person arrested or summoned before a proper magistrate without unnecessary delay; or

4. At the scene of an accident, when the owner or driver is not in a position to take charge of his vehicle and direct or request its proper removal.

B. Each officer of the Department shall use the services of the licensed wrecker operator whose location is nearest to the vehicle to be towed in all instances in subsection A of this section. The requests for services may be alternated or rotated among all such licensed wrecker operators who are located within a reasonable radius of each other. In like manner, such officer shall advise any person requesting information as to the availability of a wrecker or towing service, the name of the nearest licensed wrecker operator, giving equal consideration to all licensed wrecker operators located within a reasonable radius of each other. In cities of less than fifty thousand (50,000) population, all such licensed wrecker operators located near or in the city limits of such cities shall be considered as being equal distance and shall be called on an equal basis as nearly as possible. In counties bordering other states, if the officer deems safety and time considerations warrant, the officer may call a wrecker or towing service that is not on the rotation log.

C. Any officer of the Department who has been requested by a person in need of wrecker or towing service to call a specific

wrecker or towing service for such person, and who calls a different wrecker or towing service other than the one requested, without the consent of such person, except where hazardous conditions exist, shall be suspended from the Department, without compensation, for a period of thirty (30) days, except in instances where a vehicle is removed from the roadway under the authority of paragraphs 3 and 4 of subsection A of this section.

Passed the Senate the 21st day of May, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the 24th day of May, 2002.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives