

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, February 17, 2010

House Bill No. 2959

HOUSE BILL NO. 2959 - By: WRIGHT (HAROLD) of the House and SYKES of the Senate.

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2001, Section 954A, which relates to removal of abandoned motor vehicles; authorizing certain licensed wreckers and towing service operators to perform services under certain circumstances; requiring court order or written authorization to disclose certain information; directing the Department of Public Safety and the Oklahoma Tax Commission to render certain assistance; and providing an effective date.

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

1 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2001, Section 954A, is amended to read
2 as follows:

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

9 B. 1. The owner, legal possessor or authorized agent may request any licensed
10 wrecker or towing service within the county wherein the real property is located to
11 remove the abandoned vehicle from the premises by signing a Tow Request and

1 Authorization Form prescribed by the Department of Public Safety and furnished to
2 licensed wrecker operators as hereinafter provided.

3 2. If the owner, legal possessor or authorized agent of the property owner is unable
4 to obtain the services of a licensed wrecker or towing service to remove the abandoned
5 vehicle in a reasonable amount of time, the owner, legal possessor or authorized agent
6 may contact and request that a licensed wrecker or towing service from an adjacent
7 county perform the service. A notation shall be made on the Tow Request and
8 Authorization Form that a licensed wrecker or towing service in the county in which the
9 real property is located was contacted but the licensed wrecker or towing service was not
10 able to perform the removal in a reasonable amount of time.

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

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

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

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

1 3. The name, address and, telephone number and driver license number or state-
2 issued identification card number of the real property owner, legal possessor or
3 authorized agent;

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

5 5. Time and date the form is completed; and

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

8 The Department may require additional information on the Tow Request and
9 Authorization Form. The driver license number or state-issued identification card
10 number of the real property owner, legal possessor or authorized agent shall not be
11 disclosed by the Department to any entity inquiring about services performed without a
12 court order or without written consent from the property owner, legal possessor or
13 authorized agent.

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

19 F. A copy of the completed Tow Request and Authorization Form shall be retained
20 by the signatories and the wrecker or towing service shall maintain the wrecker vehicle
21 driver's copy for not less than one (1) year, or longer if required by the Department. The
22 wrecker or towing service shall forthwith send the completed original Tow Request and

1 Authorization Form to the Department and the remaining copy of the completed form to
2 the local police department of the municipality in which the real property is located, or
3 the sheriff's office of the county from which the vehicle was towed, if the real property is
4 located outside of an incorporated municipality. A facsimile copy of the Tow Request and
5 Authorization Form shall be considered the original form if a printed or digital
6 confirmation of the facsimile transmission is available.

7 G. Within ~~seventy-two (72) hours~~ three (3) business days of the time indicated on
8 the form, the wrecker or towing service shall request the Oklahoma Tax Commission or
9 other appropriate motor license agent to furnish the name and address of the current
10 owner of and any lienholder upon the vehicle. The Tax Commission or appropriate motor
11 license agent shall respond in person or by certified mail to the wrecker or towing service
12 within five (5) business days from the receipt of the request for information. The
13 Department ~~may~~ and the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall render assistance to ascertain
14 ownership, if needed. The wrecker or towing service shall, within seven (7) days from
15 receipt of the requested information from the Oklahoma Tax Commission or other motor
16 license agent, send a notice of the location of the vehicle by certified mail, postage
17 prepaid, at the addresses furnished, to the owner and any lienholder of the vehicle. The
18 owner or lienholder may regain possession of the vehicle in accordance with rules of the
19 Department upon payment of the wrecker or towing services, costs of certified mailing
20 and the reasonable cost of towing and storage of the vehicle. If the wrecker or towing
21 service has not complied with the notification procedures required by this subsection, the
22 owner or lienholder shall not be required to pay for storage of the vehicle.

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

5 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

6 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT, dated 02-
7 16-10 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.