

SB 488 -2 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Senate Committee On Judiciary

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/21, 4/18

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Requires Office of Attorney General to study fees and costs incurred by people whose vehicles are stolen and subsequently recovered. Sunsets December 31, 2018. Declares emergency, effective immediately.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Three policy issues addressed
- Impetus for bill
- Financial impact on towers

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-2 Replaces the measure. Removes provision declaring an emergency. Creates requirement that law enforcement agency provide tower with motor vehicle owner's contact information when motor vehicle has been reported stolen and is recovered. Specifies that contact information may only be used by tower to notify person that motor vehicle has been recovered and its current location. Specifies that fees for storage may not accrue until tower first attempts notification. Creates provision allowing registered owner of motor vehicle motor recovered totaled after theft to transfer title to tower instead of paying tower fees if transfer occurs within 14 days of notification. Specifies that tower is responsible for Department of Transportation fees for transferring title. Adds exception from requirement to surrender certificate of title if owner of vehicle transfers title to tower that recovered vehicle after vehicle was stolen. Adds exception to offense of acting as vehicle dealer without certificate for towers who receive title from owner of vehicle recovered after theft. Allows owner to inspect towed vehicle.

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

Senate Bill 488 requires the Office of the Attorney General to study the fees and costs incurred by people whose vehicles are stolen and subsequently recovered and towed. The study must analyze the reason for the costs and fees and determine if it is possible to mitigate the costs without unduly disrupting the towing business. The office must report to the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018. SB 488 would sunset on December 31, 2018.