

HB 3031 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Joint Committee On Transportation

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Meeting Dates: 3/9

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Establishes statutory limits for charges for motor vehicle towing and storage not requested by the vehicle owner or operator.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Under current law, cities and counties may set maximum rates that towing companies may charge for towing motor vehicles in cases where the vehicle is towed at the request of a third party, such as a property owner. The towing company must provide the vehicle owner with the location of the vehicle, the cost of recovering the impounded vehicle, and the payment methods that are accepted. Vehicles may be picked up during normal business hours, and certain items can be retrieved by the vehicle owner without retrieving the vehicle for no fee, provided that it is done during normal business hours.

Current law also requires that a tower receive signed authorization prior to towing a vehicle from a parking lot. The tower is also required to have photographic evidence of how the vehicle was parked in violation of a posted prohibition for the lot in question. A vehicle owner present prior to the removal of the vehicle can have the vehicle released free of charge, unless the hookup is complete, in which case the towing company can impose a hookup fee.

House Bill 3031 eliminates the authority of local governments to set towing and storage rates and replaces them with a maximum charge of \$250 for the tow, and \$25 per day for storage (\$35 per day for heavy-duty trucks). Beginning in 2024, the measure also specifies that the rate may increase annually in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers, West Region; the Department of Administrative Services is directed to calculate and publish the new maximum rate.