

S.F. No. 1448 – Retrieval of Towed Vehicle Contents

Author: Senator Ron Latz

Prepared by: Tim Greenfield, Senate Counsel (651/296-3801)

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S.F. 1448 amends the requirements and procedures for retrieving the contents of a vehicle that has been towed to an impound lot.

Section 1 [Right to reclaim] adds proof of identity, including photo ID, to the documentation that must be presented by a registered owner when the owner retrieves contents from a towed vehicle. Requires an impound lot owner to allow the registered owner to retrieve contents from a towed vehicle if the valid owner provides valid documentation of their identity. Permits the impound lot operator to make copies of the documents presented by the registered owner.

Section 2 [Identification; medicine and medical equipment] requires impound lot operators to allow registered owners to retrieve specified contents from an impounded vehicle.

Section 3 [Notice of denial] requires private impound lot operators to provide specific written reasons when denying a registered owner's request to retrieve the contents of a towed vehicle.

Section 4 [Public notice] requires private impound lot operators to post a conspicuous written notice regarding the retrieval of contents from an impounded vehicle. Provides the text of the notice.

Section 5 [Civil remedy] establishes a cause of action by the vehicle owner when a private impound lot operator violates the requirements of **section 1** and refuses to release the contents from a towed vehicle. **Paragraph (c)** provides for injunctive relief and attorney fees if the vehicle and its contents remain the possession of the private impound lot operator after the registered owner attempts retrieval. **Paragraph (d)** establishes that an aggrieved owner is entitled to \$1,000 in statutory damages and attorney fees if a private impound lot operator sells or disposes of the vehicle contents after the registered owner attempts to retrieve the contents. The aggrieved owner must bring an action within 12 months from when the vehicle was impounded.