



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

Raised Bill No. 5465

LCO No. 2665



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TOWING AND STORAGE OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) On and after October
2 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish and
3 maintain a publicly accessible electronic portal on the Internet web site
4 of the Department of Motor Vehicles for the purpose of providing
5 information concerning (1) motor vehicles taken into custody and stored
6 pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of section 14-150 of the general statutes,
7 and (2) motor vehicles subjected to nonconsensual towing or
8 transporting, as defined in section 14-66 of the general statutes. The
9 portal shall be available twenty-four hours per day and shall not require
10 the creation of a personal account for access to search such information.

11 (b) Each wrecker service or the owner or keeper of any garage,
12 storage facility or other place where a towed or transported motor
13 vehicle is stored shall, not later than two hours after such motor vehicle
14 arrives at the wrecker service's or owner's or keeper's business in a
15 secured lot, submit electronically to the portal the following

16 information: (1) The make of vehicle, year of model and color of vehicle,
17 (2) the vehicle identification number, (3) the registration number and
18 state of issuance of the vehicle registration, (4) the date, time and
19 location of the nonconsensual tow or transport, (5) the name, address
20 and telephone number of the wrecker service, (6) the hours during
21 which the vehicle may be redeemed, (7) the applicable towing and
22 storage fees accrued at the time such information is submitted to portal,
23 and (8) any additional information as the commissioner may prescribe.

24 (c) Each such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall update the
25 portal with additional information, as applicable, concerning each such
26 stored motor vehicle, not later than twenty-four hours after the
27 following events: (1) The date each such motor vehicle was redeemed,
28 (2) the date such wrecker service or owner or keeper mails a (A) notice
29 of intent to sell pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of section 14-150c of
30 the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (B) notice of proposed
31 sale pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-150c of the general statutes,
32 as amended by this act, (3) the proposed sale of such motor vehicle is
33 scheduled, including the date, time and place of the proposed sale, and
34 (4) such additional events as the commissioner may prescribe.

35 Sec. 2. Section 14-66e of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
36 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
37 *October 1, 2026*):

38 (a) For the purposes of this section:

39 (1) "Police-ordered towing" means towing or transporting and
40 recovery of a motor vehicle without the prior consent or authorization
41 of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle performed pursuant to the
42 provisions of section 14-150, as amended by this act, section 14-307 or
43 any other order of a police officer or traffic authority;

44 (2) "Oversize or overweight motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle,
45 combination of motor vehicle and trailer or commercial vehicle
46 combination, including each such motor vehicle's load, whose

47 dimensions or weight does not conform to the provisions of sections 14-
48 262, 14-262a, 14-264, 14-267a and 14-269 or any other requirement
49 specified in the general statutes;

50 (3) "Winching" means the process of moving a motor vehicle by the
51 use of chains, nylon slings or additional lengths of winch cable from a
52 position that is not accessible for direct hookup for towing a motor
53 vehicle;

54 (4) "Nonconsensual towing or transporting" and "recovery" have the
55 same meanings as provided in section 14-66; [and]

56 (5) "Light-duty motor vehicle", "medium-duty motor vehicle" and
57 "heavy-duty motor vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in
58 section 14-66d, as amended by this act; and

59 (6) "Electric vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in section 16-
60 19eee.

61 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish and publish
62 a schedule of rates and charges for the provision of police-ordered
63 towing that includes:

64 (1) A base hourly rate that may be charged for towing or transporting
65 services provided to (A) a light-duty motor vehicle, (B) a medium-duty
66 motor vehicle, (C) a heavy-duty motor vehicle, and (D) an oversize or
67 overweight motor vehicle. The commissioner shall identify the services
68 and equipment involved in the provision of such towing or transporting
69 services that are included in such base hourly rate;

70 (2) An hourly rate for winching services, provided such winching
71 service is performed on a vehicle that is located off a paved portion of a
72 highway;

73 (3) Hourly rates or charges for each type of specialized equipment
74 used in connection with the provision of police-ordered towing that are
75 not included in the base hourly rate established pursuant to subdivision

76 (1) of this subsection. Such rates or charges shall account for the cost of
77 each such type of specialized equipment and a reasonable profit margin;

78 (4) Hourly rates for labor that is not included in such base hourly rate;
79 [and]

80 (5) A charge for necessary administrative services; and

81 (6) On and after January 1, 2029, a flat surcharge for towing and
82 transporting services provided to an electric vehicle.

83 (c) The schedule of rates and charges established pursuant to the
84 provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be just and reasonable
85 and reflect the reasonable operating costs of wrecker services that
86 perform police-ordered towing. In establishing such rates and charges,
87 the commissioner shall consider factors, including, but not limited to,
88 the most recent transportation producer price index published by the
89 United States Department of Transportation, rates set by other
90 jurisdictions, rates for consensual towing of motor vehicles, the cost of
91 equipment required by regulations adopted pursuant to section 29-23a,
92 as amended by this act, and the cost of workers' compensation
93 insurance, unemployment compensation and insurance premiums.

94 (d) Not later than ninety days after receipt of a proposed schedule of
95 rates and charges and any supporting documentation from the Police-
96 Ordered Towing Council pursuant to section 14-66f, as amended by this
97 act, the commissioner shall (1) hold a public hearing for the purpose of
98 obtaining additional information concerning such proposed schedule,
99 and (2) establish and publish a schedule of rates and charges for the
100 provision of police-ordered towing. If the commissioner amends the
101 proposed schedule, the commissioner shall provide a written
102 explanation to the council of the reason for such amendment.

103 (e) (1) The commissioner shall adopt an addendum to the initial
104 schedule of rates and charges established pursuant to subsection (b) of
105 this section. Such addendum shall establish a flat surcharge for the

106 provision of police-ordered towing of an electric vehicle. In establishing
107 such surcharge, the commissioner shall consider the additional
108 operational risks and protocols associated with towing or transporting
109 an electric vehicle. Additionally, as part of such addendum, the
110 commissioner may consider establishing a flat rate for towing or
111 transporting a light-duty motor vehicle as a result of unpaid parking
112 violations or due to other circumstances as may be recommended by the
113 Police-Ordered Towing Council pursuant to subdivision (2) of
114 subsection (e) of section 14-66f, as amended by this act.

115 (2) Not later than ninety days after receipt of a proposed addendum
116 to such schedule of rates and charges and any supporting
117 documentation from the Police-Ordered Towing Council pursuant to
118 subdivision (2) of subsection (e) of section 14-66f, as amended by this
119 act, the commissioner shall (A) hold a public hearing for the purpose of
120 obtaining additional information concerning such proposed addendum,
121 and (B) establish and publish an addendum to the schedule of rates and
122 charges. Such addendum shall be effective from the date of publication
123 by the commissioner until December 31, 2028. If the commissioner
124 amends the proposed addendum from the council, the commissioner
125 shall provide a written explanation to the council of the reason for such
126 amendment.

127 [(e)] (f) Upon the publication of a schedule or an addendum pursuant
128 to the provisions of this section, no wrecker service shall (1) charge more
129 than the rates and charges contained in such schedule or an addendum,
130 or (2) charge for services that are not included in such schedule or
131 addendum.

132 Sec. 3. Section 14-66f of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes is
133 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October
134 1, 2026):

135 (a) For the purposes of this section:

136 (1) "Police-ordered towing" and "oversize or overweight motor

137 vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in section 14-66e, as
138 amended by this act; [and]

139 (2) "Light-duty motor vehicle", "medium-duty motor vehicle" and
140 "heavy-duty motor vehicle" have the same meanings as provided in
141 section 14-66d, as amended by this act; and

142 (3) "Electric vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in section 16-
143 19eee.

144 (b) There is established a Police-Ordered Towing Council within the
145 Department of Motor Vehicles for administrative purposes only. Such
146 council shall (1) advise the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles concerning
147 policies affecting police-ordered towing, and (2) develop a proposed
148 schedule of rates and charges for the provision of police-ordered towing
149 of light-duty, medium-duty, heavy-duty and oversize or overweight
150 motor vehicles.

151 (c) [The] On and after October 1, 2026, the council shall consist of the
152 following members: (1) Three representatives of an organization in the
153 state that represents towing and recovery professionals, appointed by
154 the Governor; (2) two representatives of an organization in the state that
155 represents the commercial trucking industry, appointed by the
156 Governor; (3) one representative of an association of police chiefs in the
157 state, appointed by the Governor; (4) one representative of an
158 association of fire chiefs in the state, appointed by the Governor; (5) one
159 representative of the insurance industry, appointed by the Governor;
160 [and] (6) one consumer advocate, appointed by the Governor; and (7)
161 the Commissioners of Transportation, Emergency Services and Public
162 Protection and Energy and Environmental Protection and the Insurance
163 Commissioner, or their designees.

164 (d) [Appointments] All initial appointments to the council shall be
165 made not later than August 1, 2025, and the initial appointment made
166 pursuant to subdivision (6) of subsection (c) of this section shall be made
167 not later than October 15, 2026. Each member appointed shall serve for

168 a term of three years and may serve until such member's successor is
169 appointed. Any vacancy shall be filled by the Governor not later than
170 thirty days after the date of such vacancy. The chairperson of the council
171 shall be appointed by the Governor and shall convene the first meeting
172 of the council not later than September 15, 2025.

173 (e) The council shall (1) on or before January 1, 2026, consider the
174 factors set forth in subsection (c) of section 14-66e, as amended by this
175 act, and submit to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles a proposed
176 schedule of rates and charges for the provision of police-ordered towing
177 of light-duty, medium-duty, heavy-duty and oversize or overweight
178 motor vehicles; (2) on or before January 1, 2027, consider the additional
179 operational risks and protocols associated with towing or transporting
180 an electric vehicle and submit to the commissioner a proposed
181 addendum to the schedule of rates and charges adopted pursuant to
182 section 14-66e, as amended by this act, for a flat surcharge for the
183 provision of police-ordered towing of electric vehicles. As part of such
184 addendum, the council may consider establishing a flat rate for towing
185 or transporting a light-duty motor vehicle as a result of unpaid parking
186 violations or due to any other circumstance as deemed reasonable by
187 the council and submit such recommended flat rate, if any, to the
188 commissioner; (3) in the period of time between June 1, 2028, and
189 September 1, 2028, inclusive, and every three years thereafter, review
190 and consider adjustments to the rates and charges published in
191 accordance with section 14-66e, as amended by this act, and submit such
192 recommended adjustments, if any, to the commissioner; [(3)] (4)
193 recommend specific procedures for determining whether a service
194 performed by a wrecker service in the provision of police-ordered
195 towing was required; [(4)] (5) request information from other parties to
196 assist with the work of the council and, in the discretion of the council,
197 hold public hearings for the purpose of obtaining information; and [(5)]
198 (6) make any additional recommendations to the Department of Motor
199 Vehicles that the council deems appropriate.

200 (f) Not later than January 1, 2026, the council shall designate a

201 subcommittee of the council composed of seven members. The
202 subcommittee shall consist of (1) the three members who represent an
203 organization in the state that represents towing and recovery
204 professionals, (2) one member who represents an organization in the
205 state that represents the commercial trucking industry, (3) the member
206 who represents the insurance industry, (4) the Commissioner of
207 Transportation, or the commissioner's designee, and (5) a member who
208 is a sworn member of the Division of State Police within the Department
209 of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Such subcommittee shall
210 review each complaint received by the Department of Motor Vehicles
211 pursuant to section 14-63, as amended by this act, concerning the
212 provision of police-ordered towing and issue written findings and make
213 a recommendation to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles regarding
214 whether the complaint gives rise to one or more violations of sections
215 14-51 to 14-66c, inclusive, section 14-150, as amended by this act, or any
216 regulation adopted pursuant to said sections or section 14-150d and, if
217 so, an appropriate administrative action.

218 Sec. 4. Section 14-66d of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
219 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
220 *October 1, 2026*):

221 (a) For the purposes of this section:

222 (1) "Private-property trespass towing" means the towing or
223 transporting of a motor vehicle without the prior consent or
224 authorization of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle performed
225 in accordance with the provisions of section 14-145, as amended by this
226 act;

227 (2) "Light-duty motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle with a gross
228 vehicle weight rating of less than ten thousand pounds;

229 (3) "Medium-duty motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including
230 any cargo, with a gross vehicle weight rating of ten thousand pounds or
231 more but not more than twenty-six thousand pounds;

232 (4) "Heavy-duty motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle, including any
233 cargo, with a gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six
234 thousand pounds;

235 (5) "Drop fee" means the fee payable for the release of a motor vehicle
236 that has been connected to a wrecker but not yet removed from private
237 property from which such motor vehicle is to be towed;

238 (6) "After-hours redemption fee" means the fee payable for
239 redeeming a motor vehicle from a motor vehicle storage facility outside
240 the wrecker service's hours of operation; [and]

241 (7) "Nonconsensual towing or transporting" has the same meaning as
242 provided in section 14-66; and

243 (8) "Electric vehicle" has the same meaning as provided in section 16-
244 19eee.

245 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall establish and publish
246 a schedule of rates and charges for the provision of private-property
247 trespass towing and the storage of motor vehicles. Such schedule shall
248 be effective on January 1, 2026, and shall include (1) flat rates for towing
249 services provided to light-duty, medium-duty and heavy-duty motor
250 vehicles, (2) a fee for additional labor, (3) a drop fee, (4) a mileage fee,
251 (5) storage rates, and (6) an after-hours redemption fee. Not later than
252 November 1, 2025, the commissioner shall hold one public hearing for
253 the purpose of obtaining information to establish the schedule.

254 (c) Such flat rates shall include the first two miles of transportation
255 performed by such wrecker service. No wrecker service may charge a
256 mileage fee for more than thirteen additional miles of transportation
257 provided to a motor vehicle subject to private-property trespass towing.

258 (d) Such storage rates and the after-hours redemption fee shall apply
259 to the storage of light-duty, medium-duty and heavy-duty motor
260 vehicles subject to nonconsensual towing or transporting.

261 (e) The schedule of rates and charges established pursuant to the
262 provisions of this section shall be just and reasonable and reflect the
263 reasonable operating costs of wrecker services that perform private-
264 property trespass towing and store motor vehicles. In establishing such
265 rates and charges, the commissioner shall consider factors, including,
266 but not limited to, the most recent transportation producer price index
267 published by the United States Department of Transportation, rates set
268 by other jurisdictions and the cost of fuel, wreckers, motor vehicle parts,
269 equipment, personnel, workers' compensation insurance,
270 unemployment compensation and insurance premiums.

271 (f) In the period of time between July 1, 2028, and October 1, 2028,
272 inclusive, and every three years thereafter, the commissioner shall hold
273 one public hearing for the purpose of reconsidering the schedule of rates
274 and charges established pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of
275 this section. The commissioner may amend such established schedule if,
276 after consideration of the factors set forth in subsection (e) of this section
277 and the testimony received at the public hearing, the commissioner
278 determines that such established schedule is no longer just and
279 reasonable and does not reflect the reasonable operating costs of
280 wrecker services that perform private-property trespass towing. If the
281 commissioner amends such schedule, such amended schedule shall be
282 effective the January first following each public hearing held pursuant
283 to the provisions of this subsection. On and after January 1, 2029, any
284 amendment to such established schedule shall include a separate
285 storage rate for electric vehicles.

286 (g) The commissioner shall adopt an addendum to the initial
287 schedule of rates and charges established pursuant to subsection (b) of
288 this section and effective from January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2028,
289 inclusive. Such addendum shall establish a separate storage rate for
290 electric vehicles. In establishing such storage rate, the commissioner
291 shall consider the additional operational risks and protocols associated
292 with storing an electric vehicle and hold a public hearing for the purpose
293 of obtaining additional information concerning such storage rate. Such

294 addendum shall be effective from the date of publication by the
295 commissioner until December 31, 2028.

296 [(g)] (h) Upon the publication of a schedule or an addendum
297 pursuant to the provisions of this section, no wrecker service shall (1)
298 charge more than the rates and charges contained in such schedule or
299 addendum, or (2) charge for services that are not included in such
300 schedule or addendum.

301 [(h) The uniform rates and charges for the nonconsensual towing or
302 transporting and storage of motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight
303 rating of less than ten thousand pounds established and published by
304 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to section 14-66 of the
305 general statutes, revision of 1958, revised to January 1, 2025, shall
306 continue to be effective on and after October 1, 2025, until December 31,
307 2025, inclusive, and no wrecker service shall charge more than such
308 published rates and charges during such period.]

309 Sec. 5. Subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of section 14-63 of the 2026
310 supplement to the general statutes is repealed and the following is
311 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

312 (2) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall receive, process and
313 investigate complaints from customers of dealers and repairers
314 concerning the operations of and services provided by any such dealer
315 or repairer, including the provision of nonconsensual towing or
316 transporting, recovery or storage of motor vehicles. The commissioner
317 may permit a dealer or repairer to stipulate to a complaint and waive
318 such dealer or repairer's right to an administrative hearing under the
319 provisions of chapter 54. No complaint regarding the provision of
320 police-ordered towing shall be brought but within one year from the
321 date of such police-ordered tow. Upon receipt of a compliant concerning
322 the provision of police-ordered towing, the commissioner shall submit
323 the complaint to the subcommittee of the Policy-Ordered Towing
324 Council, established pursuant to subsection (f) of section 14-66f, as

325 amended by this act, for review and recommendations.

326 Sec. 6. Section 14-63 of the general statutes is amended by adding
327 subsection (c) as follows (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

328 (NEW) (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall provide not less
329 than sixty days of written or electronic notice to each wrecker service
330 registered pursuant to subsection (c) of section 14-66 prior to the
331 implementation of any (1) new internal policies or procedures or
332 modifications to existing internal policies or procedures concerning or
333 affecting wrecker services, or (2) new forms or modifications to existing
334 forms that are prescribed by the commissioner for use in the business of
335 operating a wrecker.

336 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 29-23a of the 2026 supplement to the
337 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
338 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

339 (a) The Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency
340 Services and Public Protection shall establish, within its patrol
341 jurisdiction, a rotational system for summoning wrecker services, as
342 defined in section 14-1, for the purpose of towing or transporting motor
343 vehicles which are disabled, inoperative or wrecked in the event the
344 owners or operators of such vehicles are incapacitated, unavailable or
345 leave the procurement of wrecker service to the officer at the scene of an
346 accident or the location of a disabled vehicle. Any such wrecker service
347 may participate in such system, provided (1) such wrecker service
348 fulfills certain qualifications, including certification by the Towing and
349 Recovery Association of America or a certification program approved
350 by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and
351 the wrecker service's equipment meets safety and mechanical standards
352 established by the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public
353 Protection and the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, [and] (2) such
354 wrecker service and any employee of such wrecker service, not later
355 than one year from the date of hire, completes training provided by the

356 Department of Transportation concerning traffic incident management,
357 and (3) the wrecker service's business is located so as to provide prompt
358 and efficient service.

359 Sec. 8. Section 7-282g of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
360 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
361 *October 1, 2026*):

362 (a) If the owner or operator of a disabled vehicle is present at the
363 scene of an accident or at the location of the disabled vehicle and is able
364 to respond, the municipal police officer shall inquire whether such
365 owner or operator wishes to choose a wrecker service, as defined in
366 section 14-1, for the purposes of towing or transporting the disabled
367 vehicle. If such owner or operator wishes to do so and such chosen
368 wrecker service is on a rotational system maintained by the
369 municipality, if any, the police officer shall notify the chosen wrecker
370 service. If such chosen wrecker service cannot be contacted or is unable
371 or unwilling to respond in a timely manner as determined by the
372 municipal police officer, the municipal police officer shall (1) summon
373 the next available wrecker service on the rotational system if maintained
374 by the municipality, or (2) summon a wrecker service as chosen by such
375 municipal police officer.

376 (b) Any wrecker service that participates in a rotational system
377 maintained by a municipality and any employee of such wrecker, not
378 later than one year from the date of hire, shall complete training
379 provided by the Department of Transportation concerning traffic
380 incident management.

381 Sec. 9. Section 14-150c of the 2026 supplement to the general statutes
382 is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
383 *October 1, 2026*):

384 (a) Whenever a motor vehicle is taken into custody and stored
385 pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of section 14-150, or is subject to
386 nonconsensual towing or transporting, as defined in section 14-66, the

387 wrecker service or owner or keeper of any garage, storage facility or
388 other place where such motor vehicle is stored shall have a lien upon
389 such motor vehicle for towing or storage charges, or both, imposed by
390 such wrecker service or owner or keeper that result from towing or
391 storing a motor vehicle.

392 (b) [(1)] Except as provided in subsection (d) of section 14-150, if such
393 wrecker service or owner or keeper [makes a determination in good
394 faith that the current market value of the stored motor vehicle does not
395 exceed one thousand five hundred dollars and] determines such stored
396 motor vehicle has been stored for a period of not less than fifteen days,
397 such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall, unless an application
398 filed by the owner of such motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (e) of
399 section 14-150, as amended by this act, is pending and the owner of such
400 motor vehicle has notified such wrecker service or owner or keeper that
401 such application for hearing has been filed or unless the owner of such
402 motor vehicle elected not to receive subsequent notifications after
403 receiving the notice of tow, send a notice of intent to sell that complies
404 with subsection (c) of this section to the Commissioner of Motor
405 Vehicles, the owner of such motor vehicle and any known lienholder of
406 record of such motor vehicle at the end of such fifteen-day period. Upon
407 approval by the commissioner of the notice of intent to sell, the
408 commissioner shall issue such wrecker service or owner or keeper an
409 affidavit of compliance. [Such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall
410 sell such motor vehicle not less than five business days after the mailing
411 date of the notice of intent and apply the proceeds of the sale toward the
412 towing and storage charges imposed by such wrecker service or owner
413 or keeper.

414 (2) If such wrecker service or owner or keeper makes a determination
415 in good faith that the current market value of the stored motor vehicle
416 exceeds one thousand five hundred dollars and if such motor vehicle
417 has been stored for a period of not less than forty-five days, such
418 wrecker service or owner or keeper shall, unless an application filed by
419 the owner pursuant to subsection (e) of section 14-150, is pending and

420 the owner of such motor vehicle has notified such wrecker service or
421 owner or keeper that such application for a hearing has been filed, send
422 a notice of intent to sell that complies with subsection (c) of this section
423 to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, the owner of such motor vehicle
424 and any known lienholder of record of such motor vehicle at the end of
425 such forty-five-day period. Upon approval by the commissioner of the
426 notice of intent to sell, the commissioner shall issue such wrecker service
427 or owner or keeper an affidavit of compliance.] Such wrecker service or
428 owner or keeper shall sell such motor vehicle at public auction for cash,
429 at the place of business of such wrecker service or owner or keeper not
430 less than five business days after the mailing date of the notice of intent
431 to sell. Such owner or keeper shall apply the proceeds of such sale
432 toward the towing and storage charges imposed by such wrecker
433 service or owner or keeper, the expenses related to such sale and any
434 debt or obligation incurred by the officer who placed such motor vehicle
435 in storage in accordance with section 14-150, as amended by this act. In
436 cases where such motor vehicle does not sell at public auction but before
437 such wrecker service or owner or keeper takes ownership and sells to a
438 motor vehicle recycler for scrap, salvage or parts, such wrecker service
439 or owner or keeper shall first offer the owner of the motor vehicle and
440 any known lienholder of record who is present at such public auction
441 the opportunity to match any such offer by a motor vehicle recycler for
442 scrap, salvage or parts.

443 [(3) In determining the current market value of the stored motor
444 vehicle pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (1) or (2) of this
445 subsection, the wrecker service may deduct for an observed defect or
446 missing major component part, as defined in section 14-149a.]

447 (c) (1) The notice of intent to sell described in subsection (b) of this
448 section shall include, but need not be limited to, (A) the make, model
449 and vehicle identification number of the stored motor vehicle, (B) the
450 date such motor vehicle was left with such wrecker service or owner or
451 keeper and by whom, (C) the registration number if any number plates
452 are on such motor vehicle, [(D) the retail market value of such motor

453 vehicle as determined by the wrecker service or owner or keeper,] and
454 [(E)] (D) a statement to the owner and known lienholder that (i) the
455 stored motor vehicle will be sold at public auction for cash at the place
456 of business of such wrecker service or owner or keeper if not redeemed
457 in a timely manner, (ii) such motor vehicle may be redeemed [until the
458 point-of-sale] at the public auction and if such motor vehicle does not
459 sell at such auction, there is an opportunity to match any offer made by
460 a motor vehicle recycler to purchase such motor vehicle for scrap,
461 salvage or parts, (iii) any proceeds of such sale, after deducting the
462 amount due to such wrecker service or owner or keeper and any
463 expenses of the officer who placed such motor vehicle in storage, if
464 applicable, will be held in an escrow account and paid to the owner of
465 such motor vehicle or such owner's legal representatives, if claimed by
466 such owner or legal representatives not later than one year from the date
467 of such sale, and (iv) if such proceeds are not claimed within said period
468 of time, such proceeds will escheat to the state. Such wrecker service or
469 owner or keeper shall provide such notice and a copy of the consumer
470 bill of rights regarding towing, developed pursuant to section 14-66g, as
471 amended by this act, to the motor vehicle owner and lienholder by
472 certified mail, return receipt requested.

473 (2) Such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall also provide a copy
474 of the notice of intent to sell to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in
475 a form and manner determined by the commissioner. Such notice of
476 intent to sell shall be accompanied by a filing fee of ten dollars and any
477 other information, such as photographs of the stored motor vehicle, that
478 the commissioner may prescribe. Such notice of intent to sell shall be
479 subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined
480 in section 1-200. The commissioner may send a copy of such notice of
481 intent to sell electronically to the owner or lienholder of such motor
482 vehicle.

483 (3) Any sale of a stored motor vehicle under the provisions of this
484 section shall be void, unless such wrecker service or owner or keeper
485 provides the notices required by this subsection.

486 (d) Upon receipt of a notice of intent to sell, the commissioner shall
487 review such notice and determine if the owner of the motor vehicle has
488 filed a customer complaint concerning such wrecker service or owner or
489 keeper pursuant to section 14-63, as amended by this act. The
490 commissioner shall not approve such proposed sale until any such
491 customer complaint is resolved. If the commissioner approves such
492 proposed sale, the commissioner shall issue such wrecker service or
493 owner or keeper an affidavit of compliance.

494 (e) (1) Upon receipt of an affidavit of compliance by the
495 commissioner, such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall mail a
496 notice of proposed sale to the motor vehicle owner and known
497 lienholder by certified mail, return receipt requested, that indicates the
498 date, time and place of the proposed sale of such motor vehicle. Not less
499 than five business days after the mailing date of the notice of proposed
500 sale, such wrecker service or owner or keeper may proceed to sell such
501 motor vehicle pursuant to the provisions of [subdivision (1) or (2) of]
502 subsection (b) of this section.

503 (2) In addition to the thirty-day period immediately following the
504 date such motor vehicle was placed in storage under [subdivision (1) of]
505 subsection (b) of this section, [or a sixty-day period immediately
506 following the date such motor vehicle was placed in storage under
507 subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section,] the wrecker service may
508 only charge up to ten additional days of storage for such motor vehicle
509 after receipt of the affidavit of compliance issued by the commissioner.

510 (f) At the time of a sale conducted in accordance with the provisions
511 of this section, such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall provide
512 the purchaser of such motor vehicle with the affidavit of compliance
513 issued by the commissioner.

514 (g) Not later than fifteen days after the sale of a motor vehicle in
515 accordance with the provisions of this section, such wrecker service or
516 owner or keeper of such garage shall (1) report the sale price, towing

517 and storage charges, repair charges, if any, expenses related to the sale,
518 any proceeds, the buyer's name and address, identification of the vehicle
519 and such other information as may be required in regulations adopted
520 pursuant to section 14-150d, to the commissioner, (2) deposit the
521 proceeds of such sale, after deducting the amount due to such wrecker
522 service or owner or keeper and any expenses of the officer who placed
523 such motor vehicle in storage, if applicable, into an escrow account, and
524 (3) upon receipt of a claim by the prior owner of such motor vehicle or
525 such owner's legal representatives not later than one year from the date
526 of such sale, pay such sale proceeds to the prior owner or such owner's
527 legal representatives. If such sale proceeds are not claimed within said
528 period of time, such sale proceeds shall escheat to the state as unclaimed
529 property and the wrecker service or owner or keeper shall be subject to
530 the requirements of part III of chapter 32, including all obligations of a
531 holder of unclaimed property. Not later than ten days after filing any
532 report and paying any funds to the Treasurer as required by part III of
533 chapter 32, such wrecker service or owner or keeper shall provide
534 evidence to the commissioner, in a form and manner determined by the
535 commissioner, that such report was submitted and funds have
536 escheated.

537 (h) In no event shall such wrecker service or owner or keeper sell a
538 motor vehicle that has not been [(1)] stored for at least thirty days. [if the
539 current market value of such motor vehicle does not exceed one
540 thousand five hundred dollars, or (2) stored for at least sixty days if the
541 current market value of such motor vehicle exceeds one thousand five
542 hundred dollars.]

543 Sec. 10. Subsection (f) of section 14-145 of the 2026 supplement to the
544 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
545 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

546 (f) (1) (A) Not later than two hours after an unauthorized motor
547 vehicle is towed or otherwise removed by a wrecker service, or a
548 repossessed motor vehicle is towed or otherwise removed by a wrecker

549 service or an exempt entity, as described in subsection (g) of section 14-
550 66, the wrecker service or the exempt entity shall notify the local police
551 department or resident state trooper serving the municipality where the
552 tow or removal was conducted and specify the time the motor vehicle
553 was towed or removed, the location from which the vehicle was
554 removed and the location at which the vehicle is stored. Such
555 notification shall be submitted, in writing, or transmitted by facsimile or
556 electronic mail and the record of such notification shall be retained by
557 such wrecker service or exempt entity in accordance with the provisions
558 of section 14-66b. No such wrecker service or exempt entity may charge
559 a storage fee for an unauthorized or repossessed motor vehicle for the
560 time it is stored prior to notification of the local police department or
561 resident state trooper by the wrecker service or exempt entity.

562 (B) If such motor vehicle remains unclaimed forty-eight hours after
563 the notification pursuant to subparagraph (A) of this subdivision, the
564 wrecker service or owner of the garage where such motor vehicle is
565 stored or the exempt entity shall immediately complete a notice of
566 [such] tow, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor
567 Vehicles, and mail a copy of such form by certified mail, return receipt
568 requested, to the owner and all lienholders of record. If the motor
569 vehicle is not claimed by its owner within [the time periods specified in
570 subsection (b) of section 14-150c] thirty days, the wrecker service or
571 owner of the garage where such motor vehicle is stored or the exempt
572 entity may dispose of such motor vehicle in accordance with the
573 provisions of section 14-150c, as amended by this act.

574 (2) The local police department or resident state trooper, not later
575 than forty-eight hours after receiving notification of a tow or removal of
576 an unauthorized motor vehicle pursuant to subdivision (1) of this
577 subsection, shall enter the vehicle identification number into the
578 National Crime Information Center database and the Connecticut On-
579 Line Law Enforcement Communications Teleprocessing System to
580 determine whether such motor vehicle has been reported as stolen. If
581 such motor vehicle has been reported as stolen, the local police

582 department or resident state trooper shall immediately notify the
583 department that reported the vehicle as stolen.

584 Sec. 11. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established a Towing
585 Advisory Council to advise the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles
586 concerning laws, regulations and best practices relating to the
587 provisions of nonconsensual towing or transporting and the storage,
588 redemption and sale of towed motor vehicles. The council shall evaluate
589 ways to modernize and improve the process of selling motor vehicles at
590 public auction, including the feasibility of conducting such auctions
591 online or by third-parties, and recommend amendments to the general
592 statutes or the regulations adopted pursuant to section 14-65 of the
593 general statutes to effectuate such modernization and improvements.

594 (b) The council shall consist of the following members, appointed by
595 the commissioner: (1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or the
596 commissioner's designee; (2) two employees of the Department of
597 Motor Vehicles; (3) three representatives of an organization in the state
598 that represents towing and recovery professionals; and (4) two
599 consumer advocates. The commissioner, or the commissioner's
600 designee, shall serve as chairperson of the council and shall schedule the
601 first meeting of the council not later than September 1, 2026. The council
602 may consult with any other agencies, officials or interested parties that
603 the council deems appropriate to complete such study.

604 (c) Appointments to the council shall be made not later than August
605 1, 2026. Each member appointed shall serve for a term of three years and
606 may serve until such member's successor is appointed. Any vacancy
607 shall be filled by the commissioner not later than thirty days after the
608 date of such vacancy.

609 Sec. 12. Subsection (c) of section 14-66g of the 2026 supplement to the
610 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
611 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

612 (c) On and after October 1, [2025] 2026, a wrecker service shall (1) post

613 the consumer bill of rights at the wrecker service's place of business,
614 [and] (2) make copies of such bill of rights available for distribution to
615 customers who visit such place of business, and (3) include such bill of
616 rights and an itemized towing bill in each notice of a tow mailed to the
617 motor vehicle owner and all lienholders of record. If a wrecker service
618 maintains an Internet web site for its business, the wrecker service shall
619 prominently post such bill of rights on such Internet web site.

620 Sec. 13. Subsection (e) of section 14-150 of the 2026 supplement to the
621 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
622 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

623 (e) Within forty-eight hours of the time that a motor vehicle is taken
624 into custody and stored pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section,
625 the affixing department or parking authority shall give written notice
626 by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and any
627 lienholders of such motor vehicle, if such motor vehicle appears on the
628 records of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The wrecker service that
629 took such motor vehicle into custody shall make a reasonable effort to
630 identify the owner or lienholders of such motor vehicle and send written
631 notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and any
632 lienholders of such motor vehicle. The notice of tow provided by the
633 affixing department, parking authority and wrecker service shall state:
634 (1) That the motor vehicle has been taken into custody and stored, (2)
635 the location of storage of the motor vehicle, (3) that, unless title has
636 already vested in the municipality pursuant to subsection (d) of this
637 section, such motor vehicle may be sold in accordance with section 14-
638 150c, as amended by this act, [and] (4) that the owner has a right to
639 contest the validity of such taking by submitting an application, on a
640 form prescribed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, to the hearing
641 officer named in such notice within ten days from the date of such
642 notice, and (5) that the owner may submit a request to opt out of
643 receiving subsequent notifications regarding the sale and disposition of
644 such motor vehicle in such form and manner as prescribed by the
645 commissioner. Such application forms shall be made readily available

646 to the public at all offices and on the Internet web site of the Department
 647 of Motor Vehicles, parking authorities authorized under an ordinance
 648 adopted pursuant to section 7-204a to enforce parking regulations and
 649 state and local police departments.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-66e
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-66f
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-66d
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-63(b)(2)
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-63(c)
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	29-23a(a)
Sec. 8	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	7-282g
Sec. 9	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-150c
Sec. 10	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-145(f)
Sec. 11	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 12	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-66g(c)
Sec. 13	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	14-150(e)

Statement of Purpose:

To implement various provisions concerning towing and storing motor vehicles, including an electronic portal to locate towed vehicles, addendums to the rates and charges, the Police-Ordered Towing Council, the sale of towed motor vehicles, traffic incident management training, the Towing Advisory Council and the consumer bill of rights.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]