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HOUSE BILL No. 1184

Proposed Changes to introduced printing by AM118401

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Towing matters. Allows a towing company responding to a summons for an emergency towing to utilize the shoulder of the roadway as necessary to reach the scene of the disabled motor vehicle. Specifies that a tow-away zone sign must be at a height of more than five feet and less than seven feet. Prohibits a towing company from towing a vehicle from a tow-away zone where the tow-away zone sign is not at the required height. Adds an exception for the towing of an abandoned vehicle to the requirement that a towing company reimburse the owner of a motor vehicle for damage caused by the towing company during a commercial private property towing.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning trade regulation.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 24-14-3-~~6, AS~~[7 IS] ADDED ~~BY~~
2 ~~P.L.281-2019, TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW~~ SECTION~~5, IS AMENDED~~ TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1,
3 2026]: ~~[1]Sec. 6, [7]. A towing company~~ ~~that~~
4 ~~performs~~[responding to a summons for an] emergency towing
5 under this chapter ~~shall do the following:~~
6
7 ~~(1) Properly secure all towed~~[may utilize the shoulder of the
8 ~~roadway as necessary to reach the scene of the disabled~~
9 ~~motor vehicles.~~
10 ~~(2) Take all reasonable efforts to prevent:~~
11 ~~(A) further damage (including weather damage) to, or~~
12 ~~(B) the theft of;~~
13 ~~all towed motor vehicles, including a towed motor vehicle's~~
14 ~~cargo and contents.~~
15 ~~(3) Reimburse the owner of the motor vehicle for any~~

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1 damage caused by the towing company ➤ [vehicle].

2 SECTION 2. IC 24-14-4-2, AS ADDED BY P.L.281-2019,
3 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
4 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and
5 (c), the owner of a commercial private property may establish a
6 tow-away zone on the owner's property. A commercial private property
7 owner that establishes a tow-away zone under this section must post a
8 tow-away zone sign at the location of the tow-away zone that is [] ~~at~~
9 ~~a reasonable height,~~ at a height of more than five (5) feet and less
10 than seven (7) feet from the ground, conspicuous, and clearly visible
11 to the public. A tow-away zone sign described under this section shall
12 provide the following information:

15 (2) Pertinent contact information.

16 (3) A description of any person permitted to park in the affected
17 area, if applicable.

18 (b) A commercial private property owner may have a motor
19 vehicle towed from the owner's commercial private property without
20 first displaying signage concerning the tow-away zone if the motor
21 vehicle is removed under IC 9-22-1-16.

22 (c) A unit (as defined in IC 36-1-2-23) may adopt an ordinance
23 that provides for different requirements than those provided in this
24 section.

[(d) Except as provided in subsection (b), a towing company may not tow a motor vehicle from a tow-away zone if the tow-away zone sign is not at the height required under subsection (a).

28 1 SECTION 3. IC 24-14-4-6, AS ADDED BY P.L.281-2019,
29 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
30 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 6. A towing company that performs commercial
31 private property towing under this chapter shall do the following:

32 (1) Properly secure all towed motor vehicles.

33 (2) Take all reasonable efforts to prevent:

34 (A) further damage (including weather damage) to; or

35 (B) the theft of;

36 all towed motor vehicles, including a towed motor vehicle's
37 cargo and contents.

38 (3) ~~R~~Except for a towing performed under IC 9-22-1,
39 ~~r~~laimburse the owner of the motor vehicle for any damage
40 caused by the towing company.]

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