
THIRD READING

Bill No: SB 1112
Author: Archuleta (D)
Amended: 4/16/26
Vote: 21

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE: 13-0, 4/21/26
AYES: Umberg, Niello, Allen, Ashby, Caballero, Durazo, Laird, Reyes, Stern,
Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: Senate Rule 28.8

SUBJECT: Vehicles: towing companies and storage facilities

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill increases the amount of civil liability recoverable in a civil action for the violation of Vehicle Code section 22651.07 to up to three times the amount charged instead of two times. The bill also provides that the liability shall not exceed \$1,000 per vehicle instead of \$500.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Specifies requirements that a person, as defined, including a tow yard, storage facility, or an impounding yard that charges for towing or storage or both, must follow including posting a notice of towing and storage fees. (Vehicle Code § 22651.07.)
- 2) Provides that a person who violates the above is civilly liable to a registered or legal owner of the vehicle, or a registered owner's insurer, for up to two times the amount charged. Provides that the liability shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) per vehicle. (Vehicle Code § 22651.07 (k).)

This bill increases the amount of civil liability recoverable in a civil action for the violation of the above to up to three times the amount charged and provides that the liability shall not exceed \$1,000 per vehicle.

Comments

According to the author, “Bandit towing refers to the act of a towing company taking or holding a vehicle under false pretenses or for excessive fees. This phenomenon has been on the rise, especially in Southern California. A 2025 Department of Insurance Inland Empire Automobile Insurance Fraud Task Force report found that just one fraud ring had conspired to collect over \$200,000 from consumers and rental companies. These bad actors harm everyone: California consumers, tourists, car rental companies, and even the legitimate towing industry itself. Inspired by a recently enacted law out of Florida, SB 1112 attempts to crack down on bandit towing [. . .].

This is a consumer protection bill. It would increase civil penalties for any violations of Vehicle Code § 22651.07 to up to three times the amount charged instead of two times. It also provides that the liability shall not exceed \$1,000 per vehicle instead of \$500. Section 22651.07 sets forth requirements that a tow yard, storage facility, or an impounding yard that charges for towing or storage or both, must follow, including posting a notice of towing and storage fees.”

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 5/4/26)

American Car Rental Association
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Consumer Federation of California
Dolores Huerta Foundation
Enterprise Mobility

OPPOSITION: (Verified 5/4/26)

California Tow Truck Association

Prepared by: Margie Estrada / JUD. / (916) 651-4113
5/5/26 15:55:42

**** END ****