

JOINT COMMITTEE ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, UTILITIES, AND ENERGY

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H.3516

TITLE: An Act to prevent predatory towing fees for police-authorized tows

SPONSOR: Representative Michael P. Kushmerek (By Request)

COMMITTEE: Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy

HEARING DATE: May 6, 2025

PRIOR HISTORY: New bill

CURRENT LAW:

Chapter 159B section 6B details the rules and regulations surrounding towing in the Commonwealth. This section states that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) will determine the maximum allowable charges for the towing of a motor vehicle that is ordered by police or any other public authority, as well as a maximum daily storage charge for non-commercial passenger motor vehicles with a maximum capacity of nine persons.

SUMMARY:

Section 1 of this Act directs the DPU to establish a list of approved charges for towing and storage services provided by towing companies contracted by state or local police departments. The list of approved charges shall be reviewed and updated by the DPU at least once every two years and shall be made publicly available on the DPU websites. State and local police departments are also required to be provided copies. The list of approved charges shall include, but not be limited to:

- Maximum fees for towing services, based on vehicle size and weight
- Maximum fees for storage services, based on the length of time the vehicle is stored
- Maximum fees for additional services, such as winching, dolly fees, or special equipment fees.

Section 2 of the Act pertains to compliance and enforcement and requires all towing companies contracted by state or local police departments to adhere to the charges listed out in Section 1 and any towing company found to violate this act is subject to a penalty for each offense. Additionally, the Act grants DPU the following:

- DPU has the authority to investigate complaints of violations.
- DPU has the authority to suspend or revoke the contract of any towing company found in repeated or willful violation of the act
- Directs the DPU to promulgate regulations to implement the provisions of this Act

The Act takes effect 90 or 120 days after passage to allow for administrative implementation and nothing should be construed to limit or restrict the authority of law enforcement agencies.