

House Bill 384

Sponsor Testimony

Chairman Green, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak to House Bill 384, which will require only one notice to be sent to a vehicle owner, and any known lienholder after a vehicle is towed from a private tow-away zone.

I introduced HB 384 after I learned that a towing business must send three certified letters to both the owner and any lienholder on the vehicle when they tow a vehicle from a private property tow-away zone. It should be noted that this Legislation only applies to private tows and not to law enforcement ordered tows, which only require one certified letter to the owner and the lienholder. The purpose of this narrowly crafted legislation is to require the towing business to send only one certified letter prior to attempting to secure an unclaimed motor vehicle title.

Many towers have had to hire additional employees to handle all of this extra work. Further, when there is no return from the post office of any of the three certified letters, the deputy registrar has grounds to not process the tower's application for an Unclaimed Motor Vehicle Title. Then the vehicle simply takes up lot space and in order to clear vehicle from the lot, the tower then has to go to through a Court process in order to get a Court Ordered Unclaimed Vehicle Title. Sending three certified letters can cost a business thousands and often tens of thousands of dollars a year. Therefore, you can see that the costs incurred are significant and the additional labor coupled with all of the extra work makes this an unduly burdensome situation.

Chairman Green and members of the committee, I ask for your favorable consideration of this simple and direct legislation that would have a major positive impact on the towing industry throughout the State of Ohio and within your own Districts. I thank you for your time and would be happy to address any questions you may have at this time.