A BILL

To amend section 4513.612 of the Revised Code to
prohibit a private towing service from employing
or compensating spotters.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 4513.612 of the Revised Code be
amended to read as follows:

Sec. 4513.612. (A) As used in this section, "spotter"
means a person whose task is to report the presence of
unauthorized parked vehicles for purposes of towing, removal, or
impounding. "Spotter" does not include a law enforcement officer
as defined in section 2901.01 of the Revised Code who, in the
performance of the officer's duties, is tasked with reporting
the presence of such vehicles for purposes of towing, removal,
or impounding.

"Spotter" does not include a private property owner, the
owner's agent, or a towing company under contract with the owner
in accordance with division (B)(3) of section 4513.601 of the
Revised Code, when all of the following apply:

1. A private tow-away zone is located on the private property owner's property;

2. The private property owner or the owner's agent requests the towing service to remove a motor vehicle from the private tow-away zone.

(B) (1) No private towing service shall knowingly offer or provide monetary compensation in exchange for the authorization to tow motor vehicles from a specified location or on behalf of the person to whom the towing service offered or provided the compensation.

(B) (2) Division (A)(1) of this section does not prohibit a private towing service from negotiating or reducing towing and storage fees.

(B) (C) No private towing service shall knowingly employ or otherwise compensate or use a spotter.

(D) Whoever violates division (A)(B) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor.

(E) Whoever violates division (C) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree.

Section 2. That existing section 4513.612 of the Revised Code is hereby repealed.