

## **HB 341**

My name is Jim Shriner. I own Broad & James Towing in Columbus, OH. My family has owned and operated this business for 44 years. We currently employ approximately 40 people

I would like to thank Rep. Young and Rep Sweeney for introducing HB 341. The bill started out as a cure for some of the problems that SB 274 brought about.

With SB 274, if a towing company, such as my own, which runs over 30,000 tows in one year, has employees who make three mistakes in one year, like forgetting to download a picture, or sending a letter to the owner of an impounded vehicle in 6 business days instead of 5, the towing company can lose its PUCO authority for 6 months, basically giving the company a death sentence. This needs corrected.

HB 341 was supposed to correct this "3 strikes and your out of business rule" by lessening some of the penalties for smaller infractions. However, since this bill's inception, there have been numerous amendments added; a committee for the insurance companies to guarantee towing companies don't inflate their prices, free storage for lienholders until they receive a notification letter, requirement of the towing company to notify the owner of an impounded vehicle in writing that he/she can file a civil action against the towing company, and putting in law that towing companies can not pay kickbacks, as if we are a criminal enterprise.

These things don't sound too bad until you analyze them. For example: We are responsible for keeping a vehicle secure, paying property taxes and maintenance on a properly zoned, fenced, and well lit storage lot, but HB 341 prevents us from charging the lienholders for this service until they receive a certified letter stating we have the vehicle. We are currently required to send them notice within 5 business days. This will cost my company approximately \$100 for every vehicle a lienholder retrieves. I don't know of any business that is required to perform the extent of services we are required to provide for free. We can not afford this.

I realize how much work and time the towing association and the congressmen have put into this bill, but I'm sorry I can not support this bill.