



**Ohio Senate**  
Senate Building  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
Phone: (614) 466-8156  
Wilkin@ohiosenate.gov

**Committee**  
Small Business & Economic Opportunity  
- *Vice Chair*  
Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Energy & Public Utilities  
Veterans & Public Safety

**SHANE WILKIN**  
State Senator  
17th Senate District

Sponsor Testimony  
Senate Bill 258  
Senate Transportation Committee  
June 12, 2024

Chair Kunze, Vice Chair Reineke, Ranking Member Antonio and members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to present Sponsor Testimony in support of Senate Bill 258.

As you may be aware, Senate Bill 258 is a companion bill to House Bill 403, which unanimously passed out of the House Civil Justice Committee 12-0, on May 1, 2024.

House Bill 403 and Senate Bill 258 are both the result of the Ohio Trucking Association, the Association of Professional Towing – Ohio, and Towing and Recovery Association of Ohio working together to create a simple, fair and expedited form of dispute resolution to deal with towing and recovery bills deemed to be excessive by the trucking industry.

While this is a very contentious issue between the Truckers and the Towing industry, the language that was agreed upon aims to keep commerce moving, address payment to the towing industry for services they provide law enforcement clearing major accidents, and deal with property as a result of these accidents.

Specifically, Senate Bill 258

- Permits a vehicle owner to commence a civil action on behalf of that owner, or a third party for whom the owner commercially transports cargo – to object to the amount billed by a towing service.
- The action may be filed in a municipal or county court with jurisdiction over the location the vehicle was removed.
- The complaint shall include the amount of the bill that is undisputed and the reasons the owner objects to the remainder of the bill and include any evidence supporting the assertion that the bill amount is unreasonable.

- The vehicle owner shall pay the undisputed amount to the towing company and post a bond equal to the disputed amount.
- No later than two business days from receipt of the undisputed payment, the towing service or storage facility shall release the motor vehicle, cargo, or personal property that is the subject of the complaint.
- The court shall then make a determination whether the amount charged by the towing service was reasonable or unreasonable, order the motor vehicle owner to pay the undisputed charges or additional reasonable charges, may require either party to pay or refund any additional amount and may impose monetary penalties that the court determines to be appropriate.
- Finally, HB 403 also provides the towing service or storage facility the reciprocal privilege to commence the expedited civil action against the vehicle owner in the event the bill is not paid in 45 days from when it is presented to the vehicle owner.

I would also like to note that there was no opposition to this language in the House.

I would truly like to commend the Ohio Trucking Association, the Association of Professional Towing – Ohio, and the Towing and Recovery Association of Ohio for working together to produce a common sense form of dispute resolution that will help correct an area of serious contention between the two industries.

Chair, Vice Chair, Ranking Member, and fellow members of the Transportation Committee, I thank each of you for your time and interest in SB 258. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.