



Senate Bill No. 332

Public Act No. 22-141

AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN VEHICLE STORAGE AGREEMENTS AS A PRECONDITION TO VEHICLE TOWING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. Subsection (b) of section 14-66 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2022*):

(b) The commissioner, or an inspector authorized by the commissioner, shall examine each wrecker, including its number, equipment and identification, and shall determine the mechanical condition of such wrecker and whether or not it is properly equipped to do the work intended. A wrecker shall be deemed properly equipped if there are two flashing yellow lights installed and mounted on such wrecker that (1) show in all directions at all times, and (2) indicate the full width of such wrecker. Such lights shall be mounted not less than eight feet above the road surface and as close to the back of the cab of such wrecker as practicable. Such lights shall be in operation when such wrecker is towing a vehicle and when such wrecker is at the scene of an accident or the location of a disabled motor vehicle. In addition, each wrecker shall be equipped with a spot light mounted so that its beam of light is directed toward the hoisting equipment in the rear of such wrecker. The hoisting equipment of each wrecker shall be of sufficient

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capacity to perform the service intended and shall be securely mounted to the frame of such vehicle. A fire extinguisher shall be carried at all times on each wrecker which shall be in proper working condition, mounted in a permanent bracket on each wrecker and have a minimum rating of eight bc. A set of three flares in operating condition shall be carried at all times on each wrecker and shall be used between the periods of one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise when the wrecker is parked on a highway while making emergency repairs or preparing to pick up a disabled vehicle to remove it from a highway or adjoining property. No registrant or operator of any wrecker shall offer to give any gratuities or inducements of any kind to any police officer or other person in order to obtain towing business or recommendations for towing or storage of, or estimating repairs to, disabled vehicles. No licensee shall require the owner to sign a contract for the repair or storage of such owner's damaged vehicle as part of the towing consideration or to sign an order for the repair of, or authorization for [estimate] estimating repairs to such vehicle, until the tow job has been completed. No licensee shall tow a vehicle in such a negligent manner as to cause further damage to the vehicle being towed. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the licensee and owner of the damaged vehicle from entering into an agreement for the repair or storage of such vehicle upon the completion of the tow job.