

SENATE BILL 288

By Bell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
Chapter 16, relative to unclaimed or abandoned
vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-16-105, is amended in subsection (a) by deleting in its entirety the first sentence of such subsection and by substituting instead the following:

A police department that takes into custody an abandoned, immobile, or unattended motor vehicle, shall, within three (3) business days after taking such motor vehicle into custody, verify ownership of such motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (e). The police department shall within three (3) business days after receiving verification of ownership or thirty (30) days of taking custody of the motor vehicle, whichever is earlier, notify by registered mail, return receipt requested, the last known registered owner of the motor vehicle and all lienholders of record that the vehicle has been taken into custody.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-16-105, is further amended in subsection (f) by deleting the first sentence in its entirety and by substituting instead the following:

In addition to the notification requirements of subsection (a), any garagekeeper or towing firm, which has in its possession an abandoned, immobile or unattended motor vehicle taken into custody by a police department, and in whose possession the vehicle was lawfully placed by the police department, shall, within three (3) business days after such motor vehicle is taken into its possession, verify ownership of such motor vehicle pursuant to subsection (e). The garagekeeper or towing firm shall within three (3)

business days after receiving verification of ownership or thirty (30) days of taking custody of the motor vehicle, whichever is earlier, provide notice to the last known registered owner of the motor vehicle and all lienholders of record.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.