

FINAL BILL REPORT

SSB 5317

Brief Description: Concerning the removal of vehicles by a regional transit authority when obstructing the operation of high capacity transportation vehicles or jeopardizing public safety.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Nobles, Wilson, J., Frame, Lias, Lovick, Saldaña, Salomon, Shewmake, Wellman and Wilson, C.).

Senate Committee on Transportation
House Committee on Transportation

Background: Prior to 2022, unauthorized vehicles may be impounded by a registered tow truck operator at the direction of a law enforcement officer or other public official with jurisdiction if the vehicle is on public property, or at the direction of the property owner or an agent if it is on private property. A vehicle is deemed unauthorized if it is left unattended in certain public or private locations for specified periods of time. The 2022 supplemental budget—ESSB 5689—enacted changes that permit an authorized Regional Transit Authority (RTA) representative to direct impoundment of unauthorized vehicles within the 2021-23 biennium.

Summary: An authorized RTA representative may direct an immediate impoundment of an unauthorized vehicle within the right-of-way used by an RTA for high capacity transportation where the vehicle constitutes an obstruction to the operation of high capacity transportation vehicles or jeopardizes public safety.

The language enacted in 2022, restricting the provision to the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, is removed. The substantive provision allowing vehicle tows to be made at the direction of an authorized RTA representative is reenacted.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0	
House	95	1	(House amended)
Senate	47	1	(Senate concurred)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.