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HOUSE BILL 1518

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State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Representative Barkis; by request of Department of Transportation

1 AN ACT Relating to parking at rest areas; and amending RCW  
2 47.38.020 and 46.55.010.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 47.38.020 and 2019 c 436 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) Except where specifically authorized by the department, it is  
7 unlawful for any person or persons to stop, stand, or park any  
8 vehicle, including but not limited to trailers, campers, and  
9 motorcycles, for more than eight hours within a (~~twenty-four~~) 24  
10 hour period, or for any person or persons to camp or to maintain a  
11 camp, tent, or other sleeping accommodation or facility, in any  
12 safety rest area within the limits of the right-of-way of interstate  
13 highways or other state highways or in other areas of state or  
14 interstate highways as designated in RCW 47.12.250. The department  
15 may also designate zones within a safety rest area with shorter  
16 parking time limits for the purposes of maximum efficiency and  
17 safety. Commercial vehicles may park up to an hour beyond federally  
18 mandated rest periods.

19 (2) Except where specifically authorized by the department, it is  
20 unlawful for any person or persons to stop, stand, or park any  
21 disabled vehicle, including but not limited to trailers, campers, and

1 motorcycles, in any safety rest area for more than (~~forty-eight~~) 48  
2 hours (~~(, after which time the vehicle is subject to mandatory~~  
3 ~~impoundment under RCW 46.55.080(1))~~).

4 (3) Any vehicle that violates the time restrictions in  
5 subsections (1) and (2) of this section is subject to impoundment  
6 under RCW 46.55.080(1).

7 (4) The department shall post appropriate signage ((consistent  
8 with RCW 46.55.070(1)) at all safety rest areas regarding the  
9 parking time limits in this section. The signage shall be posted near  
10 each entrance and on the property in a clearly conspicuous and  
11 visible location to all who park on such property, and shall clearly  
12 indicate:

13 (a) When a vehicle may be impounded as an unauthorized vehicle;  
14 and

15 (b) A phone number for contacting the law enforcement agency or  
16 the department to locate the impounded vehicle.

17 (~~(4)~~) (5) The Washington state patrol shall enforce this  
18 section consistent with RCW 46.55.080(1), and to the maximum extent  
19 practicable.

20 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.55.010 and 2022 c 186 s 708 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 The definitions set forth in this section apply throughout this  
23 chapter:

24 (1) "Abandoned vehicle" means a vehicle that a registered tow  
25 truck operator has impounded and held in the operator's possession  
26 for 120 consecutive hours.

27 (2) "Immobilize" means the use of a locking wheel boot that, when  
28 attached to the wheel of a vehicle, prevents the vehicle from moving  
29 without damage to the tire to which the locking wheel boot is  
30 attached.

31 (3) "Abandoned vehicle report" means the document prescribed by  
32 the state that the towing operator forwards to the department after a  
33 vehicle has become abandoned.

34 (4) "Impound" means to take and hold a vehicle in legal custody.  
35 There are two types of impounds—public and private.

36 (a) "Public impound" means that the vehicle has been impounded at  
37 the direction of a law enforcement officer or by a public official  
38 having jurisdiction over the public property upon which the vehicle  
39 was located.

1 (b) "Private impound" means that the vehicle has been impounded  
2 at the direction of a person having control or possession of the  
3 private property upon which the vehicle was located.

4 (5) "Junk vehicle" means a vehicle certified under RCW 46.55.230  
5 as meeting at least three of the following requirements:

6 (a) Is three years old or older;

7 (b) Is extensively damaged, such damage including but not limited  
8 to any of the following: A broken window or windshield, or missing  
9 wheels, tires, motor, or transmission;

10 (c) Is apparently inoperable;

11 (d) Has an approximate fair market value equal only to the  
12 approximate value of the scrap in it.

13 (6) "Master log" means the document or an electronic facsimile  
14 prescribed by the department and the Washington state patrol in which  
15 an operator records transactions involving impounded vehicles.

16 (7) "Registered tow truck operator" or "operator" means any  
17 person who engages in the impounding, transporting, or storage of  
18 unauthorized vehicles or the disposal of abandoned vehicles.

19 (8) "Residential property" means property that has no more than  
20 four living units located on it.

21 (9) "Suspended license impound" means an impound ordered under  
22 RCW 46.55.113 because the operator was arrested for a violation of  
23 RCW 46.20.342 or 46.20.345.

24 (10) "Tow truck" means a motor vehicle that is equipped for and  
25 used in the business of towing vehicles with equipment as approved by  
26 the state patrol.

27 (11) "Tow truck number" means the number issued by the department  
28 to tow trucks used by a registered tow truck operator in the state of  
29 Washington.

30 (12) "Tow truck permit" means the permit issued annually by the  
31 department that has the classification of service the tow truck may  
32 provide stamped upon it.

33 (13) "Tow truck service" means the transporting upon the public  
34 streets and highways of this state of vehicles, together with  
35 personal effects and cargo, by a tow truck of a registered operator.

36 (14) "Unauthorized vehicle" means a vehicle that is subject to  
37 impoundment after being left unattended in one of the following  
38 public or private locations for the indicated period of time:

39 Subject to removal after:

- 1 (a) Public locations:
- 2 (i) Constituting an accident or a traffic hazard as
- 3 defined in RCW 46.55.113 . . . . . Immediately
- 4 (ii) On a highway and tagged as described in RCW
- 5 46.55.085 . . . . . 24 hours
- 6 (iii) In a publicly owned or controlled parking
- 7 facility, properly posted under RCW
- 8 46.55.070 . . . . . Immediately
- 9 (iv) During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, within the
- 10 right-of-way used by a regional transit authority
- 11 for high capacity transportation where the vehicle
- 12 constitutes an obstruction to the operation of high
- 13 capacity transportation vehicles or
- 14 jeopardizes public safety. . . . . Immediately
- 15 (v) In a safety rest area, properly posted under RCW
- 16 47.38.020 . . . . . Immediately
- 17 (b) Private locations:
- 18 (i) On residential property . . . . . Immediately
- 19 (ii) On private, nonresidential property,
- 20 properly posted under RCW
- 21 46.55.070 . . . . . Immediately
- 22 (iii) On private, nonresidential property,
- 23 not posted . . . . . 24 hours

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