

HB 2320 -- TOWING COMPANY REGULATIONS

SPONSOR: McGaugh

This bill establishes several new regulations concerning the Missouri State Highway Patrol and tow truck companies.

In authorizing a towing company to perform services, a patrol officer may utilize the services of a tow management company or tow list. A patrol officer shall not use a towing company located outside of Missouri, except under specific circumstances. A tow truck arriving at the scene of an accident that has not been called by a patrol officer, a law enforcement officer, or the driver or owner of the vehicle or his or her authorized agent, shall be prohibited from towing the vehicle from the scene, unless the tow truck operator is rendering emergency aid in the interest of public safety, or operating during a declared state of emergency. A tow truck operator convicted of, or pleading guilty to, violating this provision is guilty of a class D misdemeanor for the first violation, with the tow truck subject to impounding. A second violation shall be a class A misdemeanor and the third and any subsequent offense, a class D felony.

A tow truck company must display their business address at their location and in such a way that it is visible from the street or road. The lot must be open for a minimum of eight hours per day between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for customers to view or retrieve vehicles. Customers cannot be charged additional fees to view or retrieve their vehicles during these regular business hours. Having towed a vehicle, the towing company cannot remove said vehicle from the state of Missouri unless authorized to do so by the vehicle owner or his or her agent.

This bill is similar to HB 581 (2015).