HB1261 POLPCS1 Neil Hays-JBH 1/30/2025 12:14:24 pm

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
State of Oklahoma

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	CHAIR	:							
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Reading Clerk

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 1261

By: Hays

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PROPOSED POLICY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to motor vehicles; creating the Wrecker Services Division; requiring Division acquire certain employees to carry out its objectives; transferring certain powers, duties and responsibilities from the Corporation Commission to the Department of Public Safety by certain date; requiring Department succeed any contractual rights or responsibilities; providing for the transfer of certain rules; requiring certain notice; transferring rulemaking authority; authorizing the transfer of personnel; providing details for personnel transfer; requiring certain coordination for transfer; creating the Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing Services Board; providing for membership of the Board; providing for initial staggered membership; providing for appointment of members; requiring Board members maintain certain occupations for eligibility; requiring certain notice and resignation if certain conditions are met; providing for selection of chairperson; authorizing chair to set meetings; requiring quorum for actions of the Board; providing quorum requirements; authorizing Board to promulgate rules; listing powers and duties of the Board; prohibiting Board compensation; providing for certain reimbursement; providing for removal without cause; requiring Board act in accordance with certain laws; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 951, which relates to definitions; modifying definitions; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 952, which relates to rulemaking authority; modifying responsible agency; requiring filing and updating of all rotation logs; requiring

Department of Public Safety to promulgate certain rules; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 953.1, which relates to maximum fees and charges; modifying responsible agency; removing various rates and fees; removing certain weekly rate and fee adjustment requirement; removing certain fee mark-up allowance; requiring wreckers to provide certain list; requiring certain letterhead for list; requiring certain updates; disallowing exceedance of certain prices; allowing only for certain charges; listing allowable rates; disallowing the use of certain equipment and personnel; requiring certain fees be reasonable; requiring fuel surcharge be based upon certain prices; allowing certain adjustment of fuel surcharge; disallowing certain deviation; authorizing collection of certain charges; requiring the posting of certain prices at place of business; requiring certain investigation for complaints; requiring certain contempt proceedings be held; authorizing certain removal from rotation log; requiring Department make certain communication; requiring Department make certain statement; requiring certain opportunity for appeal and resubmission of rates; requiring certain rates remain in effect until modified; requiring Department promulgate certain rules; requiring review of price list after opening complaint; authorizing certain review; dividing the state into certain geographic areas; requiring certain validity determination; requiring return of certain amount of collected monies; requiring bringing of charges after certain complaints are made; requiring certain appeal process; describing appeal process; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 953.2, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 316, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 953.2), which relates to fees charged for storage and release; modifying responsible agency; modifying definition; removing certain set rates; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 954A, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2022 (470.5. Supp. 2024, Section 954A), which relates to abandoned motor vehicles; modifying responsible entity; updating language on Licensed Operators; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 955, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2022 (47 O.S. Supp. 2024, Section 955), which relates to towing vehicle from roadway; modifying responsible agency; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Section 956, which relates to gifts

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prohibited; modifying responsible agency; amending 47 O.S. 2021, Sections 966, 967 and 968 which relates to the Nonconsensual Towing Act of 2011; modifying responsible agency; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 3-111 of Title 47, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The Wrecker Services Division, a division of the Department of Public Safety, is hereby created, which shall consist of the Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing Services Board created in Section 2 of this act and such divisions, sections, committees, offices and positions as may be established by the Commissioner of Public Safety or by law. The Division shall employ a Division Director and a team of at least three investigators to investigate consumer complaints related to overcharging for nonconsensual towing, recovery, storage fees and violations of the rules promulgated by the Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing Services Board.

The applicable powers, duties, and responsibilities exercised by the Transportation Division of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission relating to wrecker and towing services shall be fully transferred to the Department on November 1, 2025. All records, property, equipment, assets, monies, financial interests, liabilities, matters

pending, and funds of the Commission related to wrecker and towing services shall be transferred to the Department.

- C. The Department shall succeed to any contractual rights or responsibilities incurred by the Commission pertaining to wrecker and towing services.
- D. The administrative rules related to wrecker and towing services previously promulgated by the Commission shall be transferred to and become a part of the administrative rules of the Department upon the effective date of this act. The Office of Administrative Rules in the Office of the Secretary of State shall provide adequate notice in "The Oklahoma Register" of the transferred rules and shall place the transferred rules under the Administrative Code section of the Department. On the effective date of this act, any amendment, repeal, or addition to the transferred rules shall be under the rulemaking authority of the Department.
- E. The Department and Commission may enter into an agreement for the transfer of personnel, if any, from the Commission to the Department. No employee shall be transferred to the Department except on the freely given written consent of the employee. Any employees who are transferred to the Department shall not be required to accept a lesser grade or salary than presently received. All employees shall retain leave, sick, and annual time earned, and any retirement and longevity benefits which have accrued during

- their tenure with the Commission. The transfer of any personnel
 between the state agencies shall be coordinated with the Office of
 Management and Enterprise Services.
 - F. The Office of Management and Enterprise Services shall coordinate the transfer of records, property, equipment, assets, funds, allotments, purchase orders, liabilities, outstanding financial obligations, or encumbrances provided for in this section.
 - SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 951.1 of Title 47, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:
 - A. There is hereby created the Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing
 Services Board which shall be the regulatory authority to the
 Department of Public Safety Wrecker Services Division. The Board
 shall consist of nine (9) members who shall initially serve
 staggered terms of membership with the Board. The initial staggered
 terms of membership of the Board shall be as follows:
 - 1. One member licensed by the Board to engage in nonconsensual towing appointed by the Governor from the state at large whose membership shall expire June 30, 2027;
 - 2. One member licensed by the Board to engage in nonconsensual towing appointed by the Governor from the state at large whose membership shall expire June 30, 2028;

3. One member licensed by the Board to engage in nonconsensual towing appointed by the Governor from the state at large and whose membership shall expire June 30, 2029;

- 4. One member licensed by the Board to engage in nonconsensual towing who operates in a county with a population of one hundred thousand (100,000) or more, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and whose membership shall expire June 30, 2027;
- 5. One member licensed by the Board to engage in nonconsensual towing who operates in a county with a population of one hundred thousand (100,000) or more, according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and whose membership shall expire June 30, 2028;
- 6. One member licensed by the Board to engage in nonconsensual towing who operate in a county with a population of less than one hundred thousand (100,000), according to the latest Federal Decennial Census, shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives and whose membership shall expire June 30, 2027;
- 7. One member licensed by the Board to engage in nonconsensual towing who operate in a county with a population of less than one hundred thousand (100,000), according to the latest Federal

Decennial Census, shall be appointed by the Speaker of the Oklahoma

House of Representatives and whose membership shall expire June 30,

2028;

8. One member who works in law enforcement shall be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Oklahoma State Senate and whose membership shall expire June 30, 2029; and

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9. One member who is engaged in the commercial trucking insurance industry shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and whose membership shall expire June 30, 2029.

Thereafter, persons shall be appointed for terms of three (3) years beginning July 1. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the unexpired term.

- B. Members appointed pursuant to subsection A of this section shall remain engaged in the business of nonconsensual towing, vehicle repossession and the insurance industry. Members so appointed who no longer satisfy the requirements for his or her Board position pursuant to subsection A of this section shall provide notification of his or her change of status to his or her appointing authority and to the chairperson of the Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing Services Board and shall resign from the Board within thirty (30) days of the date upon which the member no longer satisfies the requirements of the appointment.
- C. The members shall determine by majority vote of the quorum of the Board who shall serve as chairperson. The chairperson shall

be elected annually, with the right to succeed himself or herself,
from the membership of the Board.

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- D. The Board shall meet at such times and places that the chair deems necessary, but no meeting shall be held outside the State of Oklahoma. All actions of the Board shall be by a quorum. Five members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business.
- E. The Board shall promulgate rules to carry out its intent and shall regulate the wrecker and towing industry, including:
- 1. Establishing reasonable licensing, insurance, and equipment requirements for any person engaging in towing and related services for safety purposes;
- 2. Establishing reasonable tow truck safety requirements for any wrecker or wrecker vehicle as defined in Section 951 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes;
- 3. Establishing a procedure to accept and investigate complaints from a consumer who claims that he or she has been overcharged for fees related to nonconsensual towing, recovery or storage;
- 4. Determining and sanctioning excessive or unnecessary fees charged to consumers related to nonconsensual towing, recovery or storage;
- 5. Requiring all entities permitted, licensed, or regulated by the Board to provide to all documents in response to information

requests by the Board pursuant to the investigation of consumer complaints or Board complaints against the permittee or licensee;

- 6. Requiring all entities permitted, licensed, or regulated by the Board to provide itemized billing for fees related to towing, storage, or vehicle immobilization services that explains how the charges were calculated;
- 7. Requiring all entities permitted, licensed, or regulated by the Board to maintain a copy of their current maximum rate schedule or fee schedule posted in a conspicuous place and readily accessible to the public;
- 8. Requiring all entities permitted, licensed, or regulated by the Board to allow the owner or agent of the owner of a motor vehicle removed pursuant to Section 951 et seq. of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes to use any other entity permitted, licensed, or regulated by the Board when reclaiming the motor vehicle from storage;
- 9. Requiring all entities permitted, licensed, or regulated by the Board to post a sign notifying customers of the consumer complaint process pursuant to Section 953.1 of Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The sign shall be in a conspicuous and central location in the public area and shall be a minimum of sixteen inches by twenty inches (16" x 20") in size. The Board may assess a fine of between Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) and Two Hundred Fifty Dollars

1 (\$250.00) for failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph; and

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- 10. Utilizing Wrecker Services Division investigators to investigate consumer complaints related to overcharging for nonconsent towing, recovery, storage fees and violations of the rules promulgated by the Board.
- F. Members of the Board shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the provisions of the State Travel Reimbursement Act.
- G. Each member shall serve at the pleasure of his or her appointing authority and may be removed or replaced without cause.
- Η. The Board shall act in accordance with the provisions of the Oklahoma Open Records Act, the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, and the Administrative Procedures Act.
- 16 SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 951, is 17 amended to read as follows:
 - Section 951. As used in Sections 951 through 965 968 of this title and Sections 1 through 3 of this act:
- 1. "Wrecker or wrecker vehicle" means any motor vehicle that is equipped with any device designed to tow another vehicle or 22 combination of vehicles. The use of the term "wrecker" or "wrecker 23 vehicle" shall be construed to include a combination wrecker or

combination wrecker vehicle, as defined in paragraph 2 of this section, unless a specific differentiation is otherwise described;

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- 2. "Combination wrecker" or "combination wrecker vehicle" means any wrecker vehicle which is designed and equipped with two separate and distinct devices to tow simultaneously two or more other vehicles or combinations of vehicles, whether or not both devices are in use simultaneously. One of the devices shall allow another vehicle to be loaded onto and transported upon the wrecker vehicle, and one of the devices shall allow another vehicle to be attached to and pulled by the wrecker vehicle;
- 3. "Tow" or "towing" means the use of a wrecker vehicle to lift, pull, move, haul or otherwise transport any other vehicle by means of:
 - a. attaching the vehicle to and pulling the vehicle with the wrecker vehicle, or
 - b. loading the vehicle onto and transporting the vehicle upon the wrecker vehicle;
- 4. "Rollback equipment" means a towing device or equipment upon which the towed vehicle is loaded and transported, removing the towed vehicle completely from the surface of the roadway. The term "rollback equipment" shall include car haulers;
- 5. "Dolly" means a towing device or equipment which lifts and suspends one axle of the towed vehicle above the surface of the roadway;

6. "Wrecker or towing service" means engaging in the business of or performing the act of towing or offering to tow any vehicle, except:

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- a. where the operator owns the towed vehicle and displays on both sides of the wrecker vehicle in plainly visible letters not less than two (2) inches in height the words "NOT FOR HIRE",
- b. where the service is performed by a transporter as defined in Section 1-181 of this title,
- c. where service is performed in conjunction with the transportation of household goods and property,
- d. where the wrecker vehicle is owned or operated by the United States government, the State of Oklahoma, or any department or political subdivision thereof, or
- e. where the service is performed by an out-of-state wrecker service at the request of the vehicle owner or operator, the vehicle is not involved in a collision, and is being towed:
 - (1) in either direction across the border between Oklahoma and a neighboring state, or
 - (2) through Oklahoma in transit to another state;

 provided, the out-of-state wrecker service shall

 comply with all other requirements regarding

 interstate commerce as set forth in law;

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7. "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Safety;
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8. "Commission" means the Corporation Commission

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- 9. "Department" means the Department of Public Safety;
- 10. 9. "Nonconsensual tow" means the transportation of a vehicle without the consent or knowledge of the vehicle's owner, possessor, agent, insurer, lienholder, or any other person in possession of or in charge of any vehicle and includes the transportation or towing of the vehicle under lawful circumstances or necessity for the public interest including removing from the roadway for public safety or public convenience, or accidents, by any law enforcement officer or property agent or removal from public or private property as a result of abandonment or unauthorized parking by the property owner, agent, possessor, or other legal
- 15 <u>11. 10.</u> "Operator" means any person owning or operating a wrecker vehicle or wrecker or towing service;
- 17 <u>12. 11.</u> "Officer" means any duly authorized law enforcement officer;
 - 13. 12. "Roadway" means any public street, road, highway or turnpike or the median, easement or shoulder of a roadway;
- 21 14. 13. "Service call" means the act of responding to a request
 22 for service with a wrecker vehicle in which a service is performed;
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entity for the property owner;

a. have the same meaning as defined in Section 1-186 of this title, and

- b. for the purposes of this chapter when referring to a vehicle or combination of vehicles being towed or stored, include a vessel. The term "vessel" shall have the same meaning as defined in Section 4002 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.
- SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 952, is amended to read as follows:

- Section 952. A. Except for the rates established by the Corporation Commission and other provisions as provided for by law, by the The Department of Public Safety shall have the power and authority necessary to license, supervise, govern and control wrecker vehicles and wrecker or towing services.
- B. The Department of Public Safety, through the Oklahoma

 Wrecker and Towing Services Board, shall adopt and prescribe such rules as are necessary to carry out the intent of Section 951 et seq. of this title.

The rules shall state the requirements for facilities, for storage of vehicles, necessary towing equipment, the records to be kept by operators, liability insurance and insurance covering the vehicle and its contents while in storage in such sum and with such provisions as the Department Board deems necessary to adequately

protect the interests of the public, and such other matters as the Department Board may prescribe for the protection of the public.

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C. Unless otherwise regulated by the governing body of the political subdivision, the wrecker vehicle used to perform wrecker or towing services requested by a political subdivision of this state for removal of a vehicle from public property for reasons listed in Section 955 of this title shall be from the licensed wrecker or towing service whose location is nearest to the vehicle to be towed. Requests for service may be alternated or rotated among all such licensed wrecker or towing services which are located within a reasonable radius of each other. In cities of less than fifty thousand (50,000) population, all such licensed wrecker or towing services located near or in the city limits of such cities shall be considered as being equal distance and shall be called on an equal basis as nearly as possible. The police chief of any municipality and the county sheriff of each county shall keep rotation logs on all requested tows, except where there are insufficient licensed wrecker or towing services available to rotate such services or services are contracted after a competitive bid process. Rotation logs shall be made available for public inspection upon request. Any calls made from cell phones or two-way radios by any law enforcement officer or employee of any municipality or county to any wrecker service shall be listed on the rotation or call logs and made available for public inspection. A

wrecker service shall not be removed from rotation without
notification to the wrecker operator stating the reason for removal
from the rotation log. All notification for removal from a rotation
log shall be mailed to the wrecker service owner at least ten (10)
days before removal from the rotation log and shall state the
procedure and requirements for reinstatement.

- D. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the

 Department and any municipality, county or other political

 subdivision of this state shall not place any wrecker or towing

 service upon an official rotation log for the performance of

 services carried out pursuant to the request of or at the direction

 of any officer of the Department or municipality, county or

 political subdivision unless the service meets the following

 requirements:
 - 1. Principal business facilities are located within Oklahoma;
 - 2. Tow trucks are registered and licensed in Oklahoma; and
- 3. Owner is a resident of the State of Oklahoma or the service is an Oklahoma corporation.

In the event a licensed wrecker or towing service is not located within a county, a wrecker or towing service that is located outside of the county or this state and does not meet the above qualifications may be placed on the rotation log for the county or any municipality or political subdivision located within the county.

When performing services at the request of any officer, no operator or wrecker or towing service upon the rotation logs shall charge fees in excess of the maximum rates for services performed within this state, including incorporated and unincorporated areas, as established by the Commission Department.

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- The Department shall place a licensed Class AA wrecker Ε. service on the Highway Patrol Rotation Log in a highway patrol troop district in which the place of business and the primary storage facility of the wrecker service are located upon written request filed by the wrecker service with the Department. Upon further request of the wrecker service, the Commissioner of Public Safety or the Department employee with statewide responsibility for administration of wrecker services may place a wrecker service on the Highway Patrol Rotation Log in a district adjacent to the district in which the place of business and the primary storage facility of the wrecker service are located if the wrecker service is in proximity to and within a reasonable radius of the boundary of the district. When a wrecker service is placed on the rotation log in a district, the Department shall notify the wrecker service and the troop commander of the district.
- F. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the Department employee with statewide responsibility for administration of wrecker services shall be responsible for establishing geographical areas of rotation

within the troop districts and for notifying each wrecker service of the geographical areas of rotation to which the service is assigned.

- G. The Department shall make all rotation logs available for public inspection at the state office and shall make rotation logs for a highway patrol troop district available for public inspection at the district office.
- H. The Department, through the Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing
 Services Board, shall promulgate rules to develop rotation logs that

 classify wrecker and towing services by the type of services and

 equipment they are capable of providing for nonconsensual tows and

 accident remediation.
- SECTION 5. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 953.1, is amended to read as follows:

Section 953.1. A. The rates established by the Corporation

Commission Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing Services Board shall

determine the nonconsensual tow maximum fees and charges for wrecker or towing services performed in this state, including incorporated and unincorporated areas, by a wrecker or towing service licensed by the Department of Public Safety when that service appears on the rotation log of the Department or on the rotation log of any municipality, county or other political subdivision of this state, and the services performed are at the request or at the direction of any officer of the Department or of a municipality, county, or political subdivision. No wrecker or towing service in the

performance of transporting or storing vehicles or other property towed as a result of a nonconsensual tow shall charge any fee which exceeds the maximum rates established by the Commission Department.

Such rates shall be in addition to any other rates, fees or charges authorized, allowed or required by law and costs to collect such fees. Any wrecker or towing service is authorized to collect from the owner, lienholder, agent or insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for a vehicle or purchasing the vehicle as a total loss vehicle from the registered owner of any towed or stored vehicle, the fee required by Section 904 of this title including environmental remediation fees and services.

- B. When wrecker or towing services are performed as provided in subsection A of this section:
- 1. Each performance of a wrecker or towing service shall be recorded by the operator on a bill or invoice as prescribed by rules of the Department and by order of the Commission;
- 2. Nothing herein shall limit the right of an operator who has provided or caused to be provided wrecker or towing services to require prepayment, in part or in full, or guarantee of payment of any charges incurred for providing such services;
- 3. This section shall not be construed to require an operator to charge a fee for the performance of any wrecker or towing services; and

4. The operator is authorized to collect all lawful fees from the owner, lienholder or agent or insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for a vehicle or purchasing the vehicle as a total loss vehicle from the registered owner of the towed vehicle for the performance of any and all such services and costs to collect such fees. An operator shall release the vehicle from storage upon authorization from the owner, agent or lienholder of the vehicle or, in the case of a total loss, the insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for the vehicle or purchasing the vehicle where the vehicle is to be moved to an insurance pool yard for sale.

C. The rates in subsections D through G of this section shall be applicable until superseded by rates established by the Commission.

D. Distance rates.

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1. Rates in this subsection shall apply to the distance the towed vehicle is transported and shall include services of the operator of the wrecker vehicle. Hourly rates, as provided in subsection E of this section, may be applied in lieu of distance rates. Hourly rates may be applied from the time the wrecker vehicle is assigned to the service call until the time it is released from service either upon return to the premises of the wrecker or towing service or upon being assigned to perform another wrecker or towing service, whichever occurs first. When the hourly rate is applied in lieu of distance towing rates, the operator may

not apply the two-hour minimum prescribed in subsection E of this section nor may hookup or mileage charges, as prescribed in this section, be applied.

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Such distance rates shall be computed via the shortest highway mileage as determined from the latest official Oklahoma Department of Transportation state highway map, except as follows:

- a. for distances or portions of distances not specifically provided for in the governing highway map, the actual mileage via the shortest practical route will apply,
- b. in computing distances, fractions of a mile will be retained until the final and full mileage is determined, at which time any remaining fraction shall be increased to the next whole mile,
- when, due to circumstances beyond the control of the wrecker or towing service, roadway conditions make it impractical to travel via the shortest route, distance rates shall be computed based on the shortest practical route over which the wrecker vehicle and the vehicle it is towing can be moved, which route shall be noted on the bill or invoice, or
- d. when the wrecker or towing service is performed upon any turnpike or toll road, the turnpike or toll road mileage shall be used to determine the distance rates

charged and the turnpike or toll road fees may be added to the bill or invoice.

2. Maximum distance rates shall be as follows:

Weight of Towed Vehicle	Distance	Rate
(In pounds, including	Towed	Per
equipment and lading)		Mile
Single vehicle: 8,000 or less	25 miles or less	\$3.00
Single vehicle: 8,000 or less	Over 25 miles	\$2.50
Single vehicle: 8,001 to 12,000	25 miles or less	\$3.40
Single vehicle: 8,001 to 12,000	Over 25 miles	\$3.00
Single vehicle: 12,001 to 40,000	Any	\$5.75
Single vehicle: 40,000 or over	Any	\$6.75
Combination of vehicles	Any	\$6.75

E. Hourly Rates.

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1. Rates in this subsection shall apply for the use of a wrecker vehicle and shall include services of the operator of such wrecker, except as provided in paragraph 4 of this subsection.

Rates shall apply for all wrecker or towing services performed that are not otherwise provided for in this section, including, but not limited to, waiting and standby time, but shall not include the first fifteen (15) minutes of service following the hookup of a vehicle when a hookup fee is assessed, as provided in subsection F of this section.

Hourly rates shall apply from the time the vehicle or labor is assigned to the service call until the time it is released from service either upon return to the premises of the wrecker or towing service or upon being assigned to perform another wrecker or towing service, whichever occurs first. Whenever a wrecker vehicle is used to tow a vehicle subject to distance rates, as provided in subsection D of this section, hourly rates shall apply only for the time such wrecker is used in the performance of services other than transportation, except when such hourly rates are used in lieu of such distance rates.

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As used in this subsection, rates stated per hour apply for whole hours and, for fractions of an hour, rates stated per fifteen (15) minutes apply for each fifteen (15) minutes or fraction thereof over seven and one-half (7 1/2) minutes. However, if the service subject to an hourly rate is performed in less than two (2) hours, the charge applicable for two (2) hours may be assessed, except as provided for in subsection D of this section.

2. Maximum hourly rates for wrecker or towing services
performed for passenger vehicles, when rates for such services are
not otherwise provided for by law, shall be as follows:

Weight of Towed Passenger Vehicle	Rate Per	Rate Per
(In pounds)	Hour	15 Minutes
Single vehicle: 8,000 or less	\$60.00	\$15.00
Single vehicle: 8,001 to 24,000	\$80.00	\$20.00

1	Single vehicle: 24,001 to 44,000	\$120.00	\$30.00
2	Single vehicle: 44,001 or over	\$180.00	\$45.00
3	Combination of vehicles	\$180.00	\$45.00
4	3. Maximum hourly rates for al	ll other wrecker or to	owing
5	services, when rates for such other	services are not ot	nerwise
6	provided for by law, shall be deter	rmined based upon the	-gross
7	vehicle weight rating of each wrech	ker vehicle used as f	ollows:
8	GVWR of Wrecker Vehicle	Rate Per	Rate Per
9	(In pounds)	Hour	15 Minutes
10	8,000 or less	\$60.00	\$15.00
11	8,001 to 24,000	\$80.00	\$20.00
12	24,001 to 44,000	\$120.00	\$30.00
13	44,001 or over	\$180.00	\$45.00
14	Combination wrecker vehicle		
15	with GVWR of 24,000 or over	\$180.00	\$45.00
16	4. a. Maximum hourly rates	for extra labor shal	l be Thirty
17	Dollars (\$30.00) per	person per hour.	
18	b. Maximum hourly rates	for skilled or speci	alized labor
19	and/or equipment shal	ll be the actual cust	omary and
20	ordinary rates charge	ed for such labor and	/or
21	equipment. When skil	lled or specialized l	abor or
22	equipment is required	d, the wrecker operate	or's cost for
23	such skilled or speci	ialized labor or equi	ement plus a
24	twenty-five percent	(25%) gross profit ma	rkup to cover

overhead costs for such labor will be added to the 1 invoice or freight bill to be collected in addition to all other applicable charges. 3 F. Hookup Rates. 4 1. Rates in this subsection shall apply to the hookup of a 5 vehicle to a wrecker vehicle when such hookup is performed in 6 7 connection with a wrecker or towing service described in this 8 section. Such hookup rate shall include the first fifteen (15) minutes of such service, for which there shall be no additional fee 10 charged, but shall not include the use of a dolly or rollback 11 equipment or a combination wrecker vehicle to accomplish such 12 hookup, for which an additional fee may be charged as provided in 1.3 subsection C of this section. Hookup shall include, but not be 14 limited to, the attachment of a vehicle to or the loading of a 15 vehicle onto a wrecker vehicle. 16 2. Maximum hookup rates shall be as follows: 17 Weight of Vehicle Being Hooked Up 18 (In pounds, including equipment Rate 19 and lading) 20 Single vehicle: 8,000 or less \$65.00 21 Single vehicle: 8,001 to 12,000 \$75.00 22 Single vehicle: 12,001 to 24,000 \$85.00 23 Single vehicle: 24,001 or over \$95.00 24 Combination of vehicles \$95.00

1	G. Additi	onal Service Ra	tes.		
2	1. Rates	in this subsect	ion shall apply to	the performance of	
3	the following	services:			
4	a.	the disconnecti	on and reconnection	n of a towed	
5		vehicle's drive	line when necessar	ry to prevent	
6		mechanical dama	ge to such vehicle,	-	
7	b.	the removal and	replacement of a t	cowed vehicle's axle	
8		when necessary	to prevent mechanic	cal damage to such	
9		vehicle, or			
10	C.	the use of a do	lly or rollback eq u	lipment when	
11	essential to prevent mechanical damage to a towed				
12	vehicle or when neither end of such vehicle is capable				
13	of being towed safely while in contact with the				
14		roadway.			
15	2. Maximum additional service rates shall be as follows:				
16	Weight of Towc	d	Service Perfor	emed	
17	Vehicle (In po	unds, Disconn	ect Reconnect	Use of Dolly	
18	including equi	pment Drive L	ine; Drive Line;	or Rollback	
19	and lading)	Remove .	Axle Replace Axle	Equipment	
20		R	ate Per Service Pe i	rformed	
21	8,000 or less	\$10.0	9 \$15.00	\$25.00	
22	8,001 to 12,00	9 \$15.0	\$20.00	\$30.00	
23		Rate Pe	r 15 Minutes of Ser	rvice Performed	
24	12,001 or over	\$20.0	\$20.00	Not applicable	

H. C. An operator shall be required to provide reasonable documentation to the Department to substantiate all lawful fees charged the owner, lienholder, agent or insurer paying the claim for the towed vehicle. Fees for which the operator is being reimbursed or having paid to a third party, shall include copies of the invoice or other appropriate documents to substantiate such payment to said third party.

I. Wrecker fees, including maximum distance, hourly, and hookup rates shall be adjusted weekly by adding a fuel surcharge as provided in this section. The fuel surcharge shall be based on the Department of Energy "weekly retail on-highway diesel prices" for the "Midwest region" using Two Dollars (\$2.00) per gallon as the base price with no fees added. The wrecker fees shall be adjusted to allow a one-percent increase in fees for every ten-cent increase in fuel cost starting at Two Dollars and ten cents (\$2.10) per gallon.

J. When skilled or specialized labor or equipment is required, the cost incurred by the wrecker operator for such skilled or specialized labor or equipment plus an additional twenty-five percent (25%) gross profit markup or gross profit margin shall be allowed to cover overhead costs for such labor and will be added to the invoice or freight bill to be collected in addition to all other applicable charges. This applies to labor and equipment not regulated by the Commission

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        D. Wrecker or towing service companies shall provide the
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    Department a detailed comprehensive list of all prices for the
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    services it performs or may perform related to the towing and
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    storage of any vehicle that is deemed a nonconsensual tow. The list
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    shall be on the letterhead of the wrecker or towing service company.
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    The wrecker or towing service company shall be responsible for
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    updating the list when prices change by submitting a new price list
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    biannually, on January 1 and July 1 of each calendar year, and shall
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    contain the date when new prices will take effect. The wrecker or
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    towing service company shall not exceed the prices on file with the
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    Department for a nonconsensual tow. The wrecker or towing service
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    company shall only charge for services that are on file with the
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    Department. All prices provided to the Department may be provided
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    to citizens needing a wrecker or towing service. No other rates
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    will be allowed apart from the prices provided to the Department and
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    shall include, but may not be limited to:
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- Indoor storage rates;
- Outdoor storage rates;
- 3. Specialized storage rates including, but not limited to,
- 20 | vehicle storage;

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- 21 4. Hourly rates;
- 22 5. Additional labor rates;
- 23 6. Specialized equipment rates;
- 7. After-hours release rates;

- 1 8. Distance rates; and
- 2 9. Hookup rates.

- E. Rates and Charges Requirements.
- 1. A wrecker or towing service company receiving calls from the

 Department of Public Safety shall not charge fees in excess of those

 provided in writing by the wrecker or towing service company to the

 Department, nor shall said company charge for the use of equipment

 and personnel not reasonably necessary to perform the requested

 services in a timely and professional manner.
 - 2. Storage fees shall be reasonable, as determined by fees charged by other wrecker or towing service companies in the same geographic area. A list of fees shall be given to the Department in accordance with subsection D of this section. Consumer charges shall not deviate from the list provided.
 - 3. Fuel surcharge shall be based on the Department of Energy
 "weekly retail on-highway diesel prices" for the Midwest region
 using Two Dollars (\$2.00) per gallon as base price with no fees
 added. The fuel surcharge fee shall be adjusted to allow a onepercent increase in fuel cost starting at Two Dollars and ten cents
 (\$2.10) per gallon.
- 4. Any wrecker or towing service company that subcontracts for
 the utilization of additional skilled or specialized labor,
 equipment, or a wrecker vehicle that is for the purpose of a
 nonconsensual tow, the cost incurred by the wrecker or towing

service company for such skilled or specialized labor, equipment, or

wrecker vehicle plus an additional twenty-five percent (25%) gross

profit markup or gross profit margin shall be allowed to cover

overhead costs for such labor and will be added to the invoice or

freight bill to be collected in addition to all other applicable

charges.

5. Wrecker or towing service companies shall post at their place of business a list of all prices for the standard services it performs or may perform related to the towing and storage of any vehicle that is deemed a nonconsensual tow.

- 6. Whenever complaints are received by the Department concerning the services provided or fees charged for towing and related services that are requested through the Department, the complaint shall be investigated to determine its validity and whether any action is warranted against the wrecker or towing service company.
- 7. Any wrecker or towing services company found to have exceeded the prices provided to the Department, using unnecessary services to increase its fee, or engaging in unethical business practices shall be subject to contempt proceedings before the Department and removal from the towing rotation log by the troop commander.
- 8. The Department shall communicate with any wrecker or towing service company the filing rates and state whether the rates have

- been accepted or rejected. If the Department rejects rates, it

 shall state why it did so and provide the opportunity for appeal and
 resubmission of rates.
 - 9. Rates established by the Department shall remain in effect until a wrecker or towing service company files rates with the Department and those rates are accepted.

- 10. The Department, through the Oklahoma Wrecker and Towing Services Board, shall promulgate rules for the acceptance and enforcement of rates.
- F. 1. If the Department opens a complaint, it shall review the current price list provided to the Department by the wrecker or towing service company in question, and determine whether fees charged for a nonconsensual tow have been exceeded.
- 2. If fees charged for a nonconsensual tow do not exceed the current price list provided to the Department, the Department may review fees charged with those lists of prices provided to the Department by other licensed wrecker and towing service companies that are located in the same geographic area. Geographic areas of the state shall consist of four regions separated east and west by Interstate 35, and north and south by Interstate 40. If the fees charged by the wrecker and towing service company that are being reviewed by the Department, due to a complaint, exceed by more than thirty-five percent (35%) of the current listed price of service or equipment of other licensed wrecker or towing service companies in

1 the same geographic area, the Department shall determine the 2 complaint as valid and prohibit said wrecker or towing service 3 company from collecting any payments that exceed the thirty-five-4 percent threshold mentioned in this paragraph. If a wrecker or 5 towing service company has already collected monies exceeding the 6 thirty-five-percent threshold, the wrecker or towing service company 7 shall be required to return all amounts exceeding the thirty-five-8 percent threshold mentioned in this paragraph.

- 3. The Department shall only bring a charge against a wrecker or towing service company for rates charged or equipment utilized if a complaint has been filed with the Department by a third party such as the:
 - a. owner or lien holder of the vehicle, or
 - b. insurer of the vehicle.

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- G. 1. Where a wrecker or towing service company on a rotation log seeks to dispute an action of the Department due to an order regarding a complaint, the wrecker or towing service company shall be provided a process by which an appeal may be made regarding inappropriate fees charged for a service or utilization of equipment related to a nonconsensual tow, or the removal of said wrecker or towing service company from the rotation log.
- 2. The Department shall allow the wrecker or towing service company to appeal a determination by submitting supporting documentation. Once supporting documentation has been provided, the

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Department shall make a determination of whether the Department's

action against the wrecker or towing service company stands, or if

the supporting documentation shows the Department erred in its

determination against the wrecker or towing service company. If the

Department errs regarding its action against a wrecker or towing

service company, said company shall be entitled to collect any

monies prohibited by the Department, and be included on the towing
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rotation log.

K. H. Wrecker operators shall be allowed to obtain ownership and insurer information, including accident reports and other public records, from the Service Oklahoma Tax Commission or other states' motor vehicle agencies or from law enforcement agencies for the purpose of determining ownership and responsibility for wrecker fees. In the event a state of origin is not known, the Department of Public Safety and the Service Oklahoma Tax Commission shall assist in providing such information. The wrecker operator is authorized to collect lawful fees for such costs and services from the owner, or lienholder that seeks possession of a vehicle under a security interest, agent, or insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for a vehicle or purchasing the vehicle as a total loss vehicle from the owner of any towed or stored vehicle.

SECTION 6. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 953.2, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 316, O.S.L. 2023 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 953.2), is amended to read as follows:

Section 953.2. A. The rates established by order of the Corporation Commission the Department of Public Safety shall determine the maximum fees and charges for the storage and afterhours release of nonconsensual towed vehicles, including incorporated and unincorporated areas, by a wrecker or towing service licensed by the Department of Public Safety and repair facilities as defined in Section 953 of Title 15 of the Oklahoma Statutes. No wrecker or towing service or repair facilities shall charge any fee for nonconsensual towed vehicles and storage which exceeds the maximum rates established by the Commission Department. Such rates shall be in addition to any other rates, fees or charges authorized, allowed or required by law, including environmental remediation fees and services.

- B. 1. Storage or after-hours release of a towed vehicle, or both, provided by a wrecker or towing service or by a repair facility shall be recorded by the operator on a bill or invoice as prescribed by rules of the Department.
- 2. Nothing herein shall limit the right of an operator or repair facility who has provided or caused to be provided storage or after-hours release of a towed vehicle, or both, to require prepayment, in part or in full, or guarantee of payment of any charges incurred for providing such services.

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- 3. This section shall not be construed to require an operator or repair facility to charge a fee for the storage or after-hours release, or both, of any towed vehicle.
- 4. The operator or repair facility is authorized to collect all lawful fees in acceptable forms of payment such as through check, credit card, automated clearing house transfer, or debit card from the owner, lienholder or agent of the towed vehicle or insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for a vehicle or purchasing the vehicle as a total loss vehicle from the registered owner for the performance of any and all such services. An operator or repair facility shall make the towed vehicle available for inspection by the owner, lien holder, agent of the towed vehicle, or insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for a vehicle and shall release the vehicle from storage upon authorization from the owner, agent or lienholder of the vehicle or in the case of a total loss, the insurer accepting liability for paying the claim for the vehicle or purchasing the vehicle where the vehicle is to be moved to an insurance pool yard for sale.
- C. The rates in subsections D through F of this section shall be applicable until superseded by rates established by the Commission.
- D. Outdoor Storage Rates.

1. Rates in this subsection shall apply to the outdoor storage of a towed vehicle. Rates may be applied from the time the towed

1	vehicle is brought onto the outdoor storage facil	ity premises.
2	Rates shall apply to each calendar day of outdoor	storage; provided,
3	the maximum twenty-four-hour fee, as provided for	in this section,
4	may be charged for any towed vehicle which is sto	ored for a portion
5	of a twenty-four-hour period.	
6	2. Maximum outdoor storage rates shall be as	s follows:
7		Rate per Each
8		24-hour Period or
9	Type of Towed Vehicle	Portion Thereof
10	Single vehicle: motorcycle, automobile,	
11	or light truck up to 20 feet in length	\$15.00
12	Single vehicle or combination of vehicles	
13	over 20 feet in length but less than 30	
14	feet in length	\$20.00
15	Single vehicle or combination of vehicles	
16	over 30 feet in length and up to 8 feet	
17	in width	\$25.00
18	Single vehicle or combination of vehicles	
19	over 30 feet in length and over 8 feet	
20	in width	\$35.00
21	E. Indoor Storage Rates.	
22	1. Rates in this subsection shall apply to the indoor storage	
23	of a towed vehicle. Rates may be applied from the time the towed	
24	vehicle is brought into the indoor storage facili	ty premises. Rates

1	shall apply to each calendar day of indoor storage; provided, the
2	maximum twenty-four-hour fee, as provided for in this section, may
3	be charged for any towed vehicle which is stored for a portion of a
4	twenty-four-hour period.
5	2. Maximum indoor storage rates shall be as follows:
6	Rate per Each
7	24-hour Period or
8	Type of Towed Vehicle Portion Thereof
9	Single vehicle: motorcycle, automobile,
10	or light truck up to 20 feet in length \$25.00
11	Single vehicle or combination of vehicles
12	over 20 feet in length but less than 30
13	feet in length \$30.00
14	Single vehicle or combination of vehicles
15	over 30 feet in length and up to 8 feet
16	in width \$35.00
17	Single vehicle or combination of vehicles
18	over 30 feet in length and over 8 feet
19	in width \$45.00
20	3. For purposes of this subsection, "indoor storage" means the
21	vehicle is kept in an enclosed facility.
22	F. After-Hours Release Rate.
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1. The rate in this subsection shall apply to the release of a towed vehicle to the owner, lienholder, or agent when such release occurs at a time other than normal business hours.

2. As used in this subsection:

a. "after-hours

1. "After-hours release rate" shall mean the rate charged for the release of a towed vehicle between the hours of midnight and 8:00 a.m., or between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and midnight Monday through Friday, or any time on Saturday, Sunday or a national holiday; and

b. "national

- 2. "National holiday" shall mean New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day, George Washington's Birthday, on the third Monday in February, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day any holiday observed for which federal or Oklahoma State offices are closed, and shall further include the Friday before such national holiday which falls on a Saturday and the Monday following such national holiday which falls on a Sunday.
- 3. The maximum after-hours release rate shall be Fifteen

 Dollars (\$15.00) per quarter hour for the release of any single

 vehicle or combination of vehicles.
- $\frac{G_{\star}}{D_{\star}}$ An operator or repair facility shall be required to provide reasonable documentation to substantiate all lawful fees

charged to the owner, lienholder, agent or insurer accepting
liability for paying the claim for the towed vehicle or purchasing
the towed vehicle. Fees for which the operator or repair facility
is being reimbursed, or having paid to a third party, shall include
copies of the invoice or other appropriate documents to substantiate
the payment to the third party.

SECTION 7. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 954A, as amended by Section 3, Chapter 334, O.S.L. 2022 (470.5. Supp. 2023, Section 954A) is amended to read as follows:

Section 954A. A. In addition to any procedure provided by local ordinance, whenever the owner or legal possessor of real property or an authorized agent has reasonable cause to believe that a vehicle has been abandoned thereon, said vehicle having been on said property for a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours, or whenever a vehicle is left upon said real property without express or implied permission, such vehicle may be removed as provided in this section.

- B. 1. The owner, legal possessor or authorized agent may request any licensed Class AA wrecker service within the county wherein the real property is located to remove the abandoned vehicle from the premises by signing a Tow Request and Authorization Form prescribed by the Department of Public Safety and furnished to licensed Class AA wrecker service operators as hereinafter provided.
- 2. If the owner, legal possessor or authorized agent of the property owner is unable to obtain the services of a licensed Class

AA wrecker service to remove the abandoned vehicle in a reasonable amount of time, the owner, legal possessor or authorized agent may contact and request that a licensed Class AA wrecker service from an adjacent county perform the service. A notation shall be made on the Tow Request and Authorization Form that a licensed Class AA wrecker service in the county in which the real property is located was contacted but the licensed Class AA wrecker service was not able to perform the removal in a reasonable amount of time.

- C. A licensed Class AA wrecker service removing an abandoned vehicle pursuant to this section shall be subject to the maximum rates established by the Corporation Commission Department.
- D. The Department shall design and promulgate a suitable Tow Request and Authorization Form containing space for the following information:
- A description of the vehicle, including the type of vehicle,
 year of manufacture, name of the manufacturer, vehicle color or
 colors, identification number and license tag number;
- 2. The name, address and business telephone number of the licensed Class AA wrecker service;
- 3. The name, address, telephone number and driver license number or state-issued identification card number of the real property owner, legal possessor or authorized agent;
- 4. Inventory of personal property within the vehicle to be towed;

5. Time and date the form is completed; and

6. Signatures of the driver of the wrecker vehicle and of the owner, legal possessor or authorized agent of the real property.

The Department or the Commission may require additional information on the Tow Request and Authorization Form. The driver license number or state-issued identification card number of the real property owner, legal possessor or authorized agent shall not be disclosed by the Department or the Commission to any entity inquiring about services performed without a court order or without written consent from the property owner, legal possessor or authorized agent.

- E. The real property owner, legal possessor or authorized agent and the wrecker vehicle driver shall jointly, and each in the presence of the other, inventory personal property found within or upon the vehicle and each shall accordingly sign a statement on the form reflecting this requirement has been fulfilled. In the event an inventory cannot be completed, the reasons therefor shall be clearly stated on the form.
- F. A copy of the completed Tow Request and Authorization Form shall be retained by the signatories and the licensed Class AA wrecker service shall maintain the wrecker vehicle driver's copy for not less than one (1) year, or longer if required by the Department or the Commission. The licensed Class AA wrecker service shall forthwith send the completed original Tow Request and Authorization

Form to the Department and the remaining copy of the completed form
to the local police department of the municipality in which the real
property is located, or the sheriff's office of the county from
which the vehicle was towed, if the real property is located outside
of an incorporated municipality. A facsimile copy of the Tow
Request and Authorization Form shall be considered the original form
if a printed or digital confirmation of the facsimile transmission
is available.

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G. Within three (3) business days of the time indicated on the form, the licensed Class AA wrecker service shall request the Service Oklahoma Tax Commission or other appropriate motor license agent licensed operator to furnish the name and address of the current owner of and any lienholder upon the vehicle. The Tax Commission Service Oklahoma or an appropriate motor license agent licensed operator shall respond in person or by certified mail to the licensed Class AA wrecker service within five (5) business days from the receipt of the request for information. The Department and the Service Oklahoma Tax Commission shall render assistance to ascertain ownership, if needed. The licensed Class AA wrecker service shall, within seven (7) days from receipt of the requested information from the Service Oklahoma Tax Commission or other motor license agent licensed operator, send a notice of the location of the vehicle by certified mail, or if by Department notification, the Department may notify by first-class mail, postage prepaid, at the

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addresses furnished, to the owner and any lienholder of the vehicle.

The owner or lienholder may regain possession of the vehicle in

accordance with rules of the Department upon payment of the licensed

Class AA wrecker services, costs of certified mailing and the

reasonable cost of towing and storage of the vehicle. If the

licensed Class AA wrecker service has not complied with the

notification procedures required by this subsection, the owner or
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H. No licensed Class AA wrecker service or operator of a licensed Class AA wrecker service shall tow or cause to be towed a vehicle pursuant to this section until the form furnished by the Department has been appropriately completed by the parties as required by rules of the Department.

lienholder shall not be required to pay for storage of the vehicle.

SECTION 8. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 955, as amended by Section 12, Chapter 228, O.S.L. 2022 (47 O.S. Supp. 2023, Section 955), is amended to read as follows:

Section 955. A. Any officer of the Department of Public Safety or any other political subdivision of this state is hereby authorized to cause to be towed any vehicle found upon public roads, highways, streets, turnpikes, private parking lots accessible to the public, other public places or upon any private road, street, alley or lane which provides access to one or more single-family or multifamily dwellings when:

- 1. A report has been made that the vehicle has been stolen or taken without the consent of its owner;
- 2. The officer has reason to believe the vehicle has been abandoned as defined in Sections 901 and 902 of this title;

- 3. The person driving or in control of the vehicle is arrested for an alleged offense for which the officer is required by law to take the person arrested or summoned before a proper magistrate without unnecessary delay;
- 4. At the scene of an accident, if the owner or driver is not in a position to take charge of the vehicle and direct or request its proper removal;
- 5. The officer has probable cause that the person operating the vehicle has not been granted driving privileges or that the driving privileges of the person are currently suspended, revoked, canceled, denied, or disqualified;
- 6. The officer has probable cause that the vehicle has been used in the commission of a felony offense and the officer has obtained a search warrant authorizing the search and seizure of the vehicle;
- 7. The officer has probable cause that the vehicle is not insured as required by the Compulsory Insurance Law of this state;
- 8. The vehicle is involved in a fatal motor vehicle collision and is needed for evidentiary purposes; or

9. A vehicle is left unattended upon any street, sidewalk, alley or thoroughfare and constitutes a hazard or obstruction to the normal movement of public transit along a rail fixed guideway. An unattended vehicle shall be deemed to constitute an obstruction if any portion of the vehicle remains in that lane utilized for the rail fixed guideway as designated by traffic lane markings or if any portion of the vehicle is outside of the designated parking location and protrudes into the lane of traffic utilized for the rail fixed guideway. For purposes of this paragraph, the head of a political subdivision's transportation division may authorize employees to cause to be towed any vehicle which constitutes a hazard or obstruction to the normal movement of public transit along a rail fixed guideway.

No vehicle shall be released after impoundment unless the owner provides to the storing facility proof of valid insurance or an affidavit of nonuse on the roadway, or in the event of a release request from an insurer or the representative of the insurer who has accepted liability for the vehicle, no such proof of insurance or affidavit of nonuse on the roadway shall be required.

B. A licensed wrecker operator is not liable for damage to a vehicle, vessel, or cargo that obstructs the normal movement of traffic or creates a hazard to traffic and is removed in compliance with the request of a law enforcement officer, unless there is

failure to exercise reasonable care in the performance of the act or for conduct that is willful or malicious.

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- C. Each officer of the Department shall use the services of the licensed wrecker operator whose location is nearest to the vehicle to be towed in all instances in subsection A of this section. requests for services may be alternated or rotated among all licensed wrecker operators who are located within a reasonable radius of each other. In like manner, the officer shall advise any person requesting information as to the availability of a wrecker or towing service, the name of the nearest licensed wrecker operator, giving equal consideration to all licensed wrecker operators located within a reasonable radius of each other. In cities of less than fifty thousand (50,000) population, all licensed wrecker operators located near or in the city limits of such cities shall be considered as being equal distance and shall be called on an equal basis as nearly as possible. In counties bordering other states, if the officer deems safety and time considerations warrant, the officer may call a wrecker or towing service that is not on the rotation log.
 - D. Any officer of the Department who has been requested by a person in need of wrecker or towing service to call a specific wrecker or towing service for such person, and who calls a different wrecker or towing service other than the one requested, without the consent of the person, except where hazardous conditions exist,

shall be subject to progressive discipline issued by the Department except in instances where a vehicle is removed from the roadway under the authority of paragraphs 3, 4 and 6 of subsection A of this section.

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E. Operators conducting a tow under this section shall release all personal property within the vehicle to an insurer or representative of the insurer who has accepted liability for the vehicle, or to the registered owner or the owner's personal representative as designated by the registered owner on a form approved by the Department. The registered owner or representative of the registered owner shall provide proof of identity in accordance with the Department's rules related to establishing identity. Upon the release of personal property to an insurer or representative of the insurer, wrecker operators shall be exempt from all liability and shall be held harmless for any losses or claims of loss. Personal property shall include everything in a vehicle except the vehicle, the attached or installed equipment, vehicle keys or devices to start and unlock the vehicle, and the spare tire and tools to change the tire. Interlock devices may be removed pursuant to Section 11-902a of this title. If release of personal property occurs during normal business hours as prescribed by the Corporation Commission Department, it shall be at no cost to the registered owner or the owner prior to the repossession. Afterhour fees may be assessed as prescribed by this Chapter or by the

Corporation Commission the Department, when the release of property is made after the prescribed normal business hours.

- F. The operator of a wrecker or towing service may request a person offering proof of ownership of personal property and any interlock device to execute a form provided by the operator exempting the operator from liability for such release.
- 7 SECTION 9. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 956, is 8 amended to read as follows:
 - Section 956. A. No operator, employee, or contractor of a wrecker or towing service or of a person or business that derives any business or income from a wrecker or towing service shall offer, and no officer or employee of the Corporation Commission, Department of Public Safety or any political subdivision of the state shall accept, directly or indirectly, any compensation, gift, loan, favor or service given for the purpose of influencing the officer or employee in the discharge of official duties of the person.
 - B. Except as provided in subsection C of this section, no officer of the Commission, Department or any law enforcement officer of any political subdivision of the state shall have any interest, financial or otherwise, in a wrecker or towing service, or with a person or in a business that derives business or income from a wrecker or towing service, nor shall a wrecker or towing service or a person or business that derives any business or income from a wrecker or towing service employ such officer.

C. An officer of the Commission, Department or a law enforcement officer of any political subdivision may have an interest, financial or otherwise, in or may be employed by a wrecker or towing service when the sole purpose and only business of the wrecker or towing service is to perform repossessions of vehicles which are subject to lien and are being repossessed by the lien holder of record.

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SECTION 10. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 966, is amended to read as follows:

Section 966. A. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Nonconsensual Towing Act of 2011".

- B. The provisions of this act shall apply to every wrecker operating within the State of Oklahoma removing and storing vehicles from Oklahoma roads and highways or private property as a result of a nonconsensual tow.
- C. The Corporation Commission, by Commission order, Department of Public Safety shall have the power and authority necessary:
- 1. To establish wrecker rates for the transportation and storage of motor vehicles removed due to a nonconsensual tow from Oklahoma roads and highways or private property;
 - 2. To supervise and enforce such rates; and
- 3. To mediate and adjudicate complaints that may arise from charges assessed as a result of such vehicle removal.

D. Rates as specified in Sections 953.1 and 953.2 of Title 47

of the Oklahoma Statutes by the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

shall remain in effect until rates are established by order of the Commission the Department.

- E. Rates established by the Commission Department shall be fair and reasonable.
- F. The Commission Department may assess fines or other penalties to any wrecker or towing service for failure to comply with prescribed rates as established by the Commission Department, failure to pay a levied assessment or comply with any applicable order of the Commission rule of the Department. Repeat violations by a wrecker or towing service are cause for revocation of its license issued by the Department of Public Safety.
- G. The Department shall cooperate with the Commission to implement this act and may enter into agreements to facilitate this act.
- SECTION 11. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 967, is amended to read as follows:
- Section 967. A. The Corporation Commission Department of

 Public Safety is hereby authorized to assess a fee upon each wrecker

 or towing service licensed by the Department of Public Safety and

 placed upon an official rotation log, as specified in Section 952 of

 Title 47 of the Oklahoma Statutes this title, to perform

 nonconsensual tows.

B. Each wrecker or towing service shall pay the assessment, levied pursuant to this section, on an annual basis.

- C. The assessment shall be predicated upon the number of wrecker or towing vehicles utilized by the wrecker or towing service to conduct its Department-licensed operations.
- D. Commencing with assessments made after June 30, 2017, failing to pay the wrecker or towing services assessment by the due date established by the Corporation Commission Department shall result in an additional penalty of twenty-five percent (25%) per vehicle. The Transportation Division Director, or designee, Department may waive the penalty for good cause shown. Failure to pay the assessment and penalty within thirty (30) days of the notice of penalty issued by the Corporation Commission Department shall result in revocation of the wrecker or towing license issued by the Department.
- E. Beginning fiscal year 2013, the The Legislature shall establish budgetary limits for the Commission Department to fulfill the duties of the Nonconsensual Towing Act of 2011. The total assessments levied pursuant to this section shall not exceed the amount of the budgetary limits and indirect costs for related support functions established by the Legislature for any fiscal year. Annual budgetary limits shall stay in effect unless superseded by action of the Legislature.

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        SECTION 12. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2021, Section 968, is
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    amended to read as follows:
        Section 968. The Corporation Commission Department of Public
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    Safety is authorized to appoint unclassified employees to perform
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    the duties and responsibilities associated with the Nonconsensual
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    Towing Act of 2011.
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        SECTION 13. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.
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