

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 1028

Short Title: Towing Procedures.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Owens; and Wainwright.

Referred to: Judiciary II, if favorable, Finance.

April 21, 1997

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ON TOWING OPERATORS
3 TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
6 section to read:

7 **"§ 20-219.4. Towing procedures.**

8 (a) Any towing company operating in this State shall:

9 (1) Provide for reclaiming of towed vehicles within one hour during all
10 hours of operations.

11 (2) Provide on each tow vehicle a schedule of fees for services which shall
12 be uniformly applied to all operations involving that tow vehicle.

13 (3) Not charge storage fees in excess of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each day
14 or any part thereof.

15 (4) Before towing a vehicle, insure that the location from which the vehicle
16 is being towed has signs at the entrance or entrances, if there is more
17 than one, at least 24 inches by 24 inches in size, indicating:

18 a. That vehicles illegally parked will be towed at the owner's or
19 operator's expense;

1 b. Providing the name, location, and telephone number of the
2 towing company removing the vehicles; and

3 c. If parking is by permit only, the hours during which permits are
4 required to be displayed.

5 If the signs are not present, do not contain the required information, or
6 are damaged or unreadable, the towing company shall not remove the
7 vehicle.

8 (5) The towing company shall maintain a written record of all towing
9 operations for at least one year. Except for those operations authorized
10 by law enforcement authorities pursuant to Article 7A of this Chapter,
11 the written record shall show the time, date, place, fees charged, and the
12 name and telephone number of the person authorizing the tow. Blanket
13 authority for towing shall not be authorized except for spaces properly
14 marked in accordance with G.S. 20-219.2(a).

15 (b) Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a
16 Class 3 misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be only fined not more than five hundred
17 dollars (\$500.00) in the discretion of the court."

18 Section 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.