

2017 -- H 6079

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2017

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A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- THE TOWING STORAGE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Tobon, Barros, Cunha, Maldonado, and Marshall

Date Introduced: April 05, 2017

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 39-12.1 of the General Laws entitled "The Towing Storage Act" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3           **39-12.1-6.1. Towing storage facility access.**

4           (a) A certified tower must have a person working in an office that is within or in the  
5 immediate vicinity of its towing storage facility during normal business hours, and who is able to  
6 provide service to the registered owner.

7           (b) A certified tower and its towing storage facility shall maintain easily accessible  
8 publicly listed telephone numbers where they can be contacted. If the telephone numbers are  
9 changed from the numbers in their most recent records with the public utilities administrator, the  
10 certified tower and towing storage facility shall provide the public utilities administrator written  
11 notice of the change prior to the date(s) the new numbers are used. The notice shall include the  
12 certified tower's and towing storage facility's name, locations, license numbers, old telephone  
13 numbers and the new telephone numbers.

14           (c) A certified tower shall maintain its storage facility clear of any obstacles and debris at  
15 all times, to enable the safe and effective movement of stored vehicles upon all portions of the  
16 facility, regardless of prevailing weather conditions.

17           (d) A certified tower and towing storage facility shall provide reasonable hours of  
18 operation to allow access to a towed vehicle and shall grant access to the towed vehicle during its  
19 posted hours of operation for the purpose of inspection and retrieval by the registered owner or a

1 person authorized by the registered owner. Any certified tower or towing storage facility who  
2 fails to comply with this section shall be fined the amount of one hundred dollars (\$100) for the  
3 first hour the registered owner is unable to retrieve the vehicle, and twenty-five dollars (\$25.00)  
4 for each additional hour, until such time as the vehicle is retrieved by the registered owner.

5 (e) For purposes of this section, "towing storage facility" means the location where a  
6 vehicle has been towed and is securely stored by the certified tower.

7 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- THE TOWING STORAGE ACT

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1           This act would require towers and towing storage facilities have accessible personnel and  
2 phone numbers to assist vehicle owners with the vehicle retrieval, and would also require that a  
3 towing storage facility be free of all obstacles and debris.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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