



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6657**

January Session, 2023



**AN ACT CONCERNING NONCONSENSUAL TOWING.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 14-66 of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
3 *1, 2023*):

4 (a) (1) No person, firm or corporation shall engage in the business of  
5 operating a wrecker for the purpose of towing or transporting motor  
6 vehicles, including motor vehicles which are disabled, inoperative or  
7 wrecked or are being removed in accordance with the provisions of  
8 section 14-145, as amended by this act, 14-150 or 14-307, unless such  
9 person, firm or corporation is a motor vehicle dealer or repairer licensed  
10 under the provisions of subpart (D) of this part. (2) The commissioner  
11 shall establish and publish a schedule of uniform rates and charges for  
12 the nonconsensual towing and transporting of motor vehicles and for  
13 the storage of motor vehicles which shall be just and reasonable. Such  
14 schedule shall include a charge for the release of a motor vehicle that  
15 has been connected to a wrecker but not yet removed from the private  
16 property from which it is to be towed. Upon petition of any person, firm  
17 or corporation licensed in accordance with the provisions of this section,  
18 but not more frequently than once every two years, the commissioner  
19 shall reconsider the established rates and charges and shall amend such

20 rates and charges if the commissioner, after consideration of the factors  
21 stated in this subdivision, determines that such rates and charges are no  
22 longer just and reasonable. In establishing and amending such rates and  
23 charges, the commissioner [may] shall consider factors, including, but  
24 not limited to, the Consumer Price Index, rates set by other jurisdictions,  
25 charges for towing and transporting services provided pursuant to a  
26 contract with an automobile club or automobile association licensed  
27 under the provisions of section 14-67, [and] rates published in standard  
28 service manuals and operating costs of the towing industry in the state,  
29 including the cost of fuel, wreckers, heavy duty wreckers, motor vehicle  
30 parts, equipment, personnel, workers' compensation insurance,  
31 unemployment compensation and insurance premiums. The  
32 commissioner shall hold a public hearing for the purpose of obtaining  
33 additional information concerning such rates and charges. (3) With  
34 respect to the nonconsensual towing or transporting and the storage of  
35 motor vehicles, no such person, firm or corporation shall charge more  
36 than the rates and charges published by the commissioner. Any person,  
37 firm or corporation aggrieved by any action of the commissioner under  
38 the provisions of this section may take an appeal therefrom in  
39 accordance with section 4-183, except venue for such appeal shall be in  
40 the judicial district of New Britain.

41 Sec. 2. Section 14-66b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
42 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

43 (a) Each owner of a wrecker registered pursuant to subsection (c) of  
44 section 14-66 shall keep and maintain a record [stating] that includes the  
45 following information: (1) The registration number of each motor  
46 vehicle towed or transported and the registration number of each  
47 wrecker used to tow or transport such motor vehicle; (2) the date and  
48 time the tow commenced and was completed; (3) the location from  
49 which the disabled motor vehicle was towed and the destination of such  
50 tow; (4) the mileage of the wrecker at the commencement and  
51 completion of the tow; (5) the charge for tow service and any other  
52 charges incurred for services related to such tow; (6) the name and  
53 address of the person requesting tow service; (7) the written

54 authorization to tow the motor vehicle as described in section 14-145a,  
55 as amended by this act, if applicable; (8) one or more photographs of the  
56 motor vehicle that (A) shows the condition of the motor vehicle and the  
57 reason that the motor vehicle is being towed, and (B) is taken prior to  
58 the motor vehicle being connected to the wrecker; and [(7)] (9) any other  
59 information the commissioner deems necessary, specified in regulations  
60 adopted in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54. Such records  
61 shall be retained at the place of business of the wrecker service for a  
62 period of two years and shall be available for inspection during regular  
63 business hours by any law enforcement officer or inspector designated  
64 by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

65 (b) Each owner of a wrecker shall also keep and maintain copies of  
66 any written contracts with owners or lessees of property authorizing the  
67 towing or removal of motor vehicles from the property of such owner  
68 or lessee, or with lending institutions repossessing any motor vehicles,  
69 as provided in section 14-145, as amended by this act, and such contracts  
70 shall be available for inspection by motor vehicle owners, agents of the  
71 owners, or lending institutions, upon request.

72 (c) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may permit any licensed  
73 motor vehicle dealer or repairer who operates a wrecker service to  
74 maintain, in an electronic format prescribed by the commissioner, all  
75 records, photographs, documents and forms required by the  
76 Department of Motor Vehicles. Such records, photographs, documents  
77 and forms shall be produced in written format, upon request by the  
78 department, during the licensee's business hours on the same day of  
79 such request.

80 (d) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be  
81 deemed to have committed an infraction.

82 Sec. 3. Section 14-145 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
83 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

84 (a) (1) [An] For the purposes of this section, "residential complex"  
85 means a multifamily dwelling, a condominium, as defined in section 47-

86 68a, or a common interest community, as defined in section 47-202, (A)  
87 that is used for residential purposes, and (B) for which a common  
88 parking area is provided, regardless of whether each resident or unit has  
89 been assigned a specific parking space in the common parking area.

90 (2) Except as provided in this subdivision and subdivision (4) of this  
91 subsection, an owner or lessee of private property, or [his or her] such  
92 owner or lessee's agent, may remove or cause to be removed, or may use  
93 a wheel-locking device to render immovable, any motor vehicle left  
94 without authorization on such property in accordance with the  
95 provisions of this section and sections 14-145a to 14-145c, inclusive, as  
96 amended by this act, provided any such owner or lessee, or such owner  
97 or lessee's agent, of private [commercial property, or his or her agent,  
98 shall install] property, excluding residential property upon which a  
99 single-family dwelling is situated, installs conspicuous signage [stating]  
100 at all entryways to the private property. Such signage shall (A) state that  
101 motor vehicles left without authorization on such private [commercial]  
102 property may be removed or rendered immovable [and indicating] at  
103 the expense of the owner of the motor vehicle, (B) indicate the name,  
104 address and telephone number of the person, firm or corporation  
105 licensed under section 14-66, as amended by this act, performing the  
106 removal or the person rendering the motor vehicle immovable, where  
107 such motor vehicle will be stored, how the vehicle may be redeemed  
108 and any costs or fees that may be charged, and (C) list the violations that  
109 would cause a motor vehicle to be removed or rendered immovable. An  
110 owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, may not remove or  
111 cause to be removed, nor render immovable, a motor vehicle solely  
112 because such vehicle is unregistered, or has expired registration, in  
113 violation of section 14-12.

114 [(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
115 subsection, an] (3) Except as provided in subdivision (4) of this  
116 subsection, in the case of removing or causing a motor vehicle to be  
117 removed from a residential complex, the owner or lessee of the  
118 residential complex, or such owner or lessee's agent, shall also affix a  
119 written notice to the motor vehicle left without authorization on such

120 residential complex at least twenty-four hours prior to the removal of  
121 such motor vehicle. Any such notice shall (A) state that the motor  
122 vehicle will be removed from the residential complex without the  
123 consent of the owner of the motor vehicle if the motor vehicle remains  
124 parked in the same location on the residential complex, (B) describe why  
125 the motor vehicle will be removed, (C) indicate the time when the motor  
126 vehicle will be removed, which shall be not earlier than twenty-four  
127 hours after the time the notice was affixed to the motor vehicle, (D)  
128 indicate the time when the notice is affixed to the motor vehicle, and (E)  
129 be affixed to the motor vehicle at a conspicuous location on the  
130 windshield nearest the operator.

131 (4) An owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, of private  
132 [commercial] property [or such owner or lessee's agent] may tow any  
133 motor vehicle left without authorization on such property [and no  
134 signage warning of such towing shall be required to be installed by such  
135 owner or lessee] without installing signage as described in subdivision  
136 (2) of this subsection or affixing written notice to such motor vehicle as  
137 described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, as the case may be, if such  
138 motor vehicle is left (A) in a space reserved, as required in section 14-  
139 253a, for exclusive use by persons who are blind and persons with  
140 disabilities and such vehicle does not bear a removable windshield  
141 placard or special license plate, as defined in section 14-253a, (B) in an  
142 area reserved for authorized emergency vehicles, (C) within ten feet of  
143 a fire hydrant, as provided in section 14-251, (D) [blocking building  
144 access] occupying without permission, or effectively obstructing access  
145 to or from a building or to or from, a space reserved for a specific  
146 resident or unit, (E) blocking entry or exit from such property, [or] (F)  
147 for forty-eight or more hours, [. (3)] (G) without displaying valid  
148 authorization in a parking area marked for the exclusive use of  
149 residents, (H) in an area not designated for the parking of motor  
150 vehicles, or (I) in violation of a parking ban to facilitate the removal of  
151 snow and ice, provided such owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's  
152 agent, posts notice of such parking ban in conspicuous places in the  
153 building and parking area and communicates such parking ban directly

154 by telephone, electronic mail or text message at least four hours before  
155 enacting such parking ban. On and after October 1, 2023, if a motor  
156 vehicle remains located on a residential complex a third or subsequent  
157 time in the same manner that caused the motor vehicle to be subject to  
158 previous written notices as described in subdivision (3) of this  
159 subsection, the owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, need  
160 not affix a written notice to such motor vehicle before removing or  
161 causing the removal of the motor vehicle.

162 (5) A lending institution may repossess any motor vehicle, in  
163 accordance with the provisions of section 36a-785, by contracting with a  
164 wrecker licensed under section 14-66, as amended by this act, or an  
165 entity exempt from such licensure, as provided in subsection (f) of  
166 section 14-66, to tow or otherwise remove such motor vehicle in  
167 accordance with the provisions of this section and sections 14-145a to  
168 14-145c, inclusive, as amended by this act. In the case of a repossession,  
169 no signage as described in subdivision [(1)] (2) of this subsection or  
170 written notice as described in subdivision (3) of this subsection shall be  
171 required.

172 [(4)] (6) This section shall not apply to law enforcement, fire-fighting,  
173 rescue, ambulance or emergency vehicles which are marked as such, or  
174 to motor vehicles left without authorization on property leased by any  
175 governmental agency.

176 (b) (1) (A) When an unauthorized motor vehicle is towed or otherwise  
177 removed by a wrecker licensed under section 14-66, as amended by this  
178 act, or a repossessed motor vehicle is towed or otherwise removed by a  
179 wrecker or an exempt entity, the licensee or operator of the wrecker or  
180 the exempt entity shall notify the local police department of the tow or  
181 removal within two hours. Such notification shall be submitted, in  
182 writing, or transmitted by facsimile or electronic mail and the record of  
183 such notification shall be retained by such licensee, operator or exempt  
184 entity in accordance with the provisions of section 14-66b, as amended  
185 by this act.

186 (B) No such licensee, operator or exempt entity may charge a storage  
187 fee for an unauthorized or repossessed motor vehicle for the time it is  
188 stored prior to notification of the local police department by the licensee,  
189 operator or exempt entity. If such motor vehicle is not claimed within  
190 forty-eight hours, the licensee or operator of the wrecker or of the garage  
191 where such motor vehicle is stored or the exempt entity shall  
192 immediately complete a notice of such tow, on a form prescribed by the  
193 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, and mail a copy of such form by  
194 certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner and all lienholders  
195 of record. If the motor vehicle is not claimed by its owner within the  
196 time period specified in subsection (e) of section 14-150, the licensee or  
197 operator of the wrecker or of the garage where such motor vehicle is  
198 stored or the exempt entity may dispose of such motor vehicle in  
199 accordance with the provisions of subsection (e) and subsections (g) to  
200 (j), inclusive, of section 14-150.

201 (2) (A) When an unauthorized motor vehicle is rendered immovable  
202 through use of a wheel-locking device by an owner or lessee of private  
203 property, or [his or her] such owner or lessee's agent, such owner, lessee  
204 or agent shall notify the local police department of such action within  
205 two hours. Such notification shall be submitted in writing or transmitted  
206 by facsimile or electronic mail. The record of such notification shall be  
207 retained by such owner, lessee or agent at the private property upon  
208 which such action took place, for a period of not less than six months  
209 and shall be available for inspection during regular business hours by  
210 any sworn member of the local police department or law enforcement  
211 officer or inspector designated by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

212 (B) No owner, lessee or agent may charge a fee to remove a wheel-  
213 locking device prior to notification of the local police department. The  
214 fee charged to remove a wheel-locking device may not be more than  
215 fifty dollars. The person claiming the motor vehicle may choose to pay  
216 such fee in cash, by check or by debit or credit card. Ten per cent of such  
217 fee shall be remitted to the local police department by the owner, lessee  
218 or agent. If such motor vehicle is not claimed within forty-eight hours  
219 after being rendered immovable, the owner, lessee or agent shall

220 immediately complete a notice that such motor vehicle has been  
221 rendered immovable, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, and  
222 mail a copy of such form by certified mail, return receipt requested, to  
223 the owner of such motor vehicle and all lienholders of record. If the  
224 motor vehicle is not claimed by its owner within the time period  
225 specified in subsection (e) of section 14-150, the owner, lessee or agent  
226 may dispose of such motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions of  
227 subsection (e) and subsections (g) to (j), inclusive, of section 14-150.

228 (3) The local police department, not later than forty-eight hours after  
229 receiving notification of a tow or removal of an unauthorized motor  
230 vehicle pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, or use of a wheel-  
231 locking device pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection, shall enter  
232 the vehicle identification number into the National Crime Information  
233 Center database and the Connecticut On-Line Law Enforcement  
234 Communications Teleprocessing System to determine whether such  
235 motor vehicle has been reported as stolen. If such motor vehicle has been  
236 reported as stolen, the local police department shall immediately notify  
237 the department that reported the vehicle as stolen.

238 (c) Upon request by the owner or operator of a motor vehicle that has  
239 been connected to a wrecker but has not yet been removed from the  
240 private property, the licensee or operator of the wrecker shall  
241 immediately release the motor vehicle to such owner or operator and  
242 may charge no more than the amount published by the Commissioner  
243 of Motor Vehicles pursuant to subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of section  
244 14-66, as amended by this act.

245 ~~[(c)]~~ (d) The commissioner may adopt regulations, in accordance with  
246 the provisions of chapter 54, (1) specifying the circumstances under  
247 which title to any motor vehicle towed or stored, or both, or rendered  
248 immovable under this section may be transferred to any person, firm or  
249 corporation towing, storing or rendering immovable such vehicle, and  
250 (2) establishing the procedure whereby such person, firm or corporation  
251 may obtain title to such motor vehicle.



252        [(d)] (e) No owner or lessee of private property, or [his or her] such  
253 owner or lessee's agent, shall issue a parking citation by written  
254 warning, posted signage or other means to impose a monetary sanction  
255 on an owner of a motor vehicle parked on such property. The provisions  
256 of this subsection shall not apply to an independent institution of higher  
257 education, as defined in subsection (a) of section 10a-173, or a private  
258 secondary school.

259        [(e)] (f) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall,  
260 for a first offense, be deemed to have committed an infraction and be  
261 fined fifty dollars, and, for each subsequent offense, shall be fined not  
262 less than fifty dollars and not more than one hundred dollars or  
263 imprisoned not more than thirty days or be both fined and imprisoned.

264        Sec. 4. Section 14-145a of the general statutes is repealed and the  
265 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

266        (a) No [vehicle] person, firm or corporation licensed under section 14-  
267 66, as amended by this act, shall [be towed or removed] tow or remove  
268 a motor vehicle from private property [except (1) upon express  
269 instruction of the owner or lessee, or his or her agent, of the property  
270 upon which the vehicle is trespassing, or (2) for the purpose of  
271 repossession of the motor vehicle by a lending institution. No vehicle  
272 shall be rendered immovable on private property through the use of a  
273 wheel-locking device except upon express instruction of the owner or  
274 lessee, or his or her agent] without first obtaining the written  
275 authorization to tow or remove such motor vehicle, at any time within  
276 the twenty-four hours preceding the tow or removal, from the owner or  
277 lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent, who shall be present on the  
278 property and verify the reason for such tow or removal. Such written  
279 authorization shall include (1) the make, model, vehicle identification  
280 number and number plate of the motor vehicle to be tow or removed,  
281 (2) the name, signature, job title, residential or business address and  
282 telephone number of the owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's  
283 agent, authorizing the tow or removal, (3) the reason for removing the  
284 motor vehicle, (4) the time when the motor vehicle was first observed

285 parked at the private property, and (5) the time that authorization to tow  
286 or remove the motor vehicle was given. Such person, firm or corporation  
287 may be an agent of such owner or lessee with the authority to provide  
288 the written authorization described in this subsection only for the tow  
289 or removal of a motor vehicle that is left on such property as described  
290 in subparagraphs (A) to (I), inclusive, of subdivision (4) of subsection (a)  
291 of section 14-145, as amended by this act. Nothing in this subsection  
292 shall be construed to limit the right of a municipality or the state to  
293 remove an abandoned motor vehicle in accordance with the provisions  
294 of section 14-150.

295 (b) No vehicle shall be rendered immovable on private property  
296 through the use of a wheel-locking device except upon express  
297 instruction of the owner or lessee, or such owner or lessee's agent.

298 [(b)] (c) No person, [or] firm or corporation that tows or removes a  
299 motor vehicle from private property or renders a motor vehicle  
300 immovable on private property shall rebate or pay any money or other  
301 valuable consideration to the owner or lessee, or [his or her] such owner  
302 or lessee's agent, of the property from which the vehicle is towed or  
303 removed or on which the vehicle is rendered immovable, or to a lending  
304 institution, for the privilege of towing, removing or rendering  
305 immovable such vehicle.

306 (d) Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this  
307 section shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars.

308 Sec. 5. Section 14-145b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
309 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

310 (a) (1) Any vehicle towed or removed from private property pursuant  
311 to sections 14-145 to 14-145c, inclusive, as amended by this act, shall be  
312 stored at the site of the towing company's business in a secured storage  
313 lot, provided the site of such lot is located within a ten-mile radius of  
314 the private property from where the vehicle was removed if the private  
315 property is located in a municipality with a population greater than fifty  
316 thousand. The site shall be open during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00

317 p.m., Monday through Friday, and be reasonably available on Saturday,  
318 Sunday and holidays, for the purpose of vehicle redemption.

319 (2) No vehicle shall be rendered immovable on private property  
320 through use of a wheel-locking device pursuant to sections 14-145 to 14-  
321 145c, inclusive, as amended by this act, unless the vehicle is located in a  
322 secure place on such property that is reasonably accessible for the  
323 purpose of vehicle redemption. Personnel to provide for vehicle  
324 redemption shall be on such property for not less than eight hours after  
325 a vehicle has been rendered immovable. Additionally, signage shall  
326 describe the hours for vehicle redemption when the eight-hour deadline  
327 has passed. If the vehicle is towed or removed from such property, all  
328 provisions of sections 14-145 to 14-145c, inclusive, as amended by this  
329 act, relating to the towing or removal of a vehicle shall be applicable.

330 (b) When a vehicle has been towed or removed pursuant to sections  
331 14-145 to 14-145c, inclusive, as amended by this act, it shall be released  
332 to its owner, a lending institution or a person authorized by the owner  
333 or lending institution to regain possession, upon demand, provided the  
334 demand is made between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday  
335 through Friday or at a reasonable time on Saturday, Sunday or holidays  
336 and the owner or authorized person presents proof of registration and  
337 pays the costs of towing or removal and of storage. The person, firm or  
338 corporation towing or removing the vehicle shall accept such payment  
339 by cash or credit card and maintain sufficient cash at the office of such  
340 person, firm or corporation to provide change to the owner or  
341 authorized person at the time of payment. Such person, firm or  
342 corporation may charge a service fee for any such payment made by a  
343 credit card, provided the service fee shall not exceed any charge of the  
344 card issuer paid by such person, firm or corporation, including any  
345 discount rate.

346 (c) Any vehicle owner, lending institution or agent of the owner or  
347 lending institution, shall have the right to inspect the vehicle before  
348 accepting its return or removal of a wheel-locking device. No general  
349 release of any kind that would release the person, [or] firm or

350 corporation towing, removing or storing the vehicle or rendering the  
 351 vehicle immovable from liability for damages or from liability for any  
 352 claim that the vehicle was towed or rendered immovable without  
 353 justification may be required from any vehicle owner, lending  
 354 institution or agent of the owner or lending institution, as a condition of  
 355 release of the vehicle. A receipt showing the name of the person, [or]  
 356 firm or corporation towing or removing the vehicle or rendering the  
 357 vehicle immovable and an itemization of the charges shall be provided  
 358 to the person paying the towing or removal and storage costs or the  
 359 charge for removal of a wheel-locking device at the time of payment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2023	14-66(a)
Sec. 2	October 1, 2023	14-66b
Sec. 3	October 1, 2023	14-145
Sec. 4	October 1, 2023	14-145a
Sec. 5	October 1, 2023	14-145b

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a)(2), "charges" was changed to "schedule" for internal consistency; in Section 1(a)(3), "firm or corporation" was inserted for consistency; in Section 3(a)(2), the first sentence was rewritten for clarity; in Section 4(a), "without first obtaining the written authorization" was moved for consistency with standard drafting conventions and "at any time" was inserted and the third sentence was rewritten for clarity; in Section 4(c), "licensed under section 14-66, as amended by this act" was deleted for accuracy; in Section 5(a), "of such lot" was inserted for clarity; in Section 5(b), "paid by such person, firm or corporation" was added for clarity; and in Section 5(c), "person or firm" was changed to "person, [or] firm or corporation" for consistency.

**TRA**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*