

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Towed vehicle contents

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Overview

This bill amends towed vehicle regulations to allow retrieval of contents of a towed vehicle and makes associated changes.

Section

- 1 Sale after 45 days or title transfer.** Allows an impounded vehicle to be sold earlier than the current 45 day waiting period, if the owner of the vehicle has transferred the title to the impound lot operator. This provision does not apply to the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.
- 2 Written notice of impound.** Amends the requirements for notice given to the owner of an impounded vehicle, to:
 - Clarify that the notice must be written;
 - Clarify that failure to retrieve the vehicle or its contents within the waiting period constitutes a waiver of rights and title; and
 - Require notice to vehicle owners that they have the right to retrieve vehicle contents regardless of whether the vehicle itself is being reclaimed.
- 3 Unauthorized vehicle; second notice.** Makes technical changes.
- 4 Retrieval of contents.** Allows someone whose vehicle was towed to be able to retrieve its contents without paying for retrieval of the vehicle. Makes violators of this requirement liable for \$500 or triple damages owed to the vehicle owner.

