

Hundredth Legislature - First Session - 2007 Committee Statement LB 561

Hearing Date: February 6, 2007

Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications

Introducer(s): (Fischer)

Title: Change provisions relating to removal of disabled or immobilized vehicles

Roll Call Vote – Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File

X Advanced to General File with Amendments

Indefinitely Postponed

Vote Results:

8 Yes Senators Schimek, Hudkins, Louden, Stuthman, Aguilar, Fischer,

Mines and Pedersen

No

Present, not voting

Absent

Proponents: Representing:

Dusty Vaughan, Introducer Senator Deb Fischer, District #43

Bryan Tuma Nebraska State Patrol

Mike Hybl Nebraska Trucking Association

Opponents: Representing:

Paul O'Hara Nebraska Association of Trial Lawyers

Neutral: Representing:

Loy Todd Nebraska New Car & Truck Dealers Association

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 561 authorizes a peace officer to remove or cause to be removed any vehicle or property that is obstructing the roadway or endangering the public safety. Consent of the driver or owner is not required. The vehicle or property shall be removed in the quickest way possible and due regard shall be given to the protection of the property removed. This bill does not apply to accidents involving hazardous materials.

There is no liability for the state or any law enforcement agency for damage incurred to a moved vehicle. In addition, the state or law enforcement agency won't be held responsible for any

damages that may result from the failure to exercise the authority under this bill, if the agency acts in good faith.

The bill also states that whenever a vehicle is disabled or inoperable in a roadway or obstructs the flow of traffic for reasons other than an accident, the driver shall move the vehicle as soon as practical. This section doesn't apply if it is impossible to move the vehicle, until such time as it becomes possible.

Explanation of amendments, if any:

The committee amendment, AM531, strikes subsections (4) and (5) of Section 1, concerning the state or law enforcement agency's immunity from liability.

Senator Deb Fischer, Chairperson