

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB616

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 02, 2021
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Hughes
One Liner: Change abandoned motor vehicle provisions

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:

Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye: 8 Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Cavanaugh, M., DeBoer, Friesen, Geist, Hughes, Moser

Nay:

Absent:

Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Hughes
Jo Anne Hitz

Representing:

Introducer
Professional Towing Assn of NE

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents:

Opponents:

Neutral:

Jon Cannon

Representing:

Representing:

Representing:

NACO

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB 616 would change rules governing abandoned vehicles. Currently, a towor must notify any lienholder appearing on the certificate of title of the vehicle and the owner within 15 days of towing an abandoned vehicle. This bill would require the State Patrol to also follow these guidelines and notify the last registered owners, or any lienholder, within 15 days of an abandoned vehicle being taken into custody. It would also apply this 15 day notice requirement for a motor vehicle taken into custody for investigatory purposes that the law enforcement agency has no further need to keep in custody.

The bill would also raise the value for an abandoned vehicle's title to automatically vest from \$250 to \$500. This would apply to abandoned vehicles with no license plates of the current year or valid In Transit stickers. This will allow more titles for low

value vehicles to have their titles automatically vest to the local authority without going through the usual steps of the retitling process.

Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1 adds lienholders to notice requirements for law enforcement agencies that keep an all-terrain vehicle, utility-type vehicle or minibike in custody for over 30 days, after sending a letter to the last registered owner or lienholder.

Section 2 raises the immediate title vesting value for abandoned vehicles without a current license plate or valid In Transit stickers from \$250 to \$500. Vehicles valued at less than \$500 would have their title immediately vest to the local authority or state agency having jurisdiction.

Section 3 directs local authorities or state agencies keeping abandoned vehicles in their custody to send notice to the last registered owner, if any, and any lienholder, if any, within 15 days.

Section 4 directs a state or local law enforcement agency with a vehicle in its custody for investigatory purposes that no longer needs to keep it in custody to notify, by certified letter, each of the last registered owners, if any, or any lienholder, if any, within 15 calendar days.

Section 5 repeals the original sections.

Explanation of amendments:

AM 107 replaces "or" with "and" to require a state or local law enforcement agency to send notice to the last registered owner and lienholder, instead of the last registered owner or lienholder, regarding certain vehicles in the law enforcement agency's custody.

Curt Friesen, Chairperson