

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 616

Introduced by Hughes, 44.

Read first time January 20, 2021

Committee: Transportation and Telecommunications

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to abandoned motor vehicles; to amend sections
2 60-1902, 60-1903, and 60-1903.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of
3 Nebraska; and section 60-1901, Revised Statutes Cumulative
4 Supplement, 2020; to change the value requirement for vesting of
5 title in a local authority or state agency; to change local
6 authority and state agency notice requirements; to harmonize
7 provisions; and to repeal the original sections.
8 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. Section 60-1901, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
2 2020, is amended to read:

3 60-1901 (1) A motor vehicle is an abandoned vehicle:

4 (a) If left unattended, with no license plates or valid In Transit
5 stickers issued pursuant to the Motor Vehicle Registration Act affixed
6 thereto, for more than six hours on any public property;

7 (b) If left unattended for more than twenty-four hours on any public
8 property, except a portion thereof on which parking is legally permitted;

9 (c) If left unattended for more than forty-eight hours, after the
10 parking of such vehicle has become illegal, if left on a portion of any
11 public property on which parking is legally permitted;

12 (d) If left unattended for more than seven days on private property
13 if left initially without permission of the owner, or after permission of
14 the owner is terminated;

15 (e) If left for more than thirty days in the custody of a law
16 enforcement agency after the agency has sent a letter to the last-
17 registered owner under section 60-1903.01; or

18 (f) If removed from private property by a municipality pursuant to a
19 municipal ordinance.

20 (2) An all-terrain vehicle, a utility-type vehicle, or a minibike is
21 an abandoned vehicle:

22 (a) If left unattended for more than twenty-four hours on any public
23 property, except a portion thereof on which parking is legally permitted;

24 (b) If left unattended for more than forty-eight hours, after the
25 parking of such vehicle has become illegal, if left on a portion of any
26 public property on which parking is legally permitted;

27 (c) If left unattended for more than seven days on private property
28 if left initially without permission of the owner, or after permission of
29 the owner is terminated;

30 (d) If left for more than thirty days in the custody of a law
31 enforcement agency after the agency has sent a letter to the last-

1 registered owner or lienholder under section 60-1903.01; or

2 (e) If removed from private property by a municipality pursuant to a
3 municipal ordinance.

4 (3) A mobile home is an abandoned vehicle if left in place on
5 private property for more than thirty days after a local governmental
6 unit, pursuant to an ordinance or resolution, has sent a certified letter
7 to each of the last-registered owners and posted a notice on the mobile
8 home, stating that the mobile home is subject to sale or auction or
9 vesting of title as set forth in section 60-1903.

10 (4) For purposes of this section:

11 (a) Mobile home means a movable or portable dwelling constructed to
12 be towed on its own chassis, connected to utilities, and designed with or
13 without a permanent foundation for year-round living. It may consist of
14 one or more units that can be telescoped when towed and expanded later
15 for additional capacity, or of two or more units, separately towable but
16 designed to be joined into one integral unit, and shall include a
17 manufactured home as defined in section 71-4603. Mobile home does not
18 include a mobile home or manufactured home for which an affidavit of
19 affixture has been recorded pursuant to section 60-169;

20 (b) Public property means any public right-of-way, street, highway,
21 alley, or park or other state, county, or municipally owned property; and

22 (c) Private property means any privately owned property which is not
23 included within the definition of public property.

24 (5) No motor vehicle subject to forfeiture under section 28-431
25 shall be an abandoned vehicle under this section.

26 Sec. 2. Section 60-1902, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
27 amended to read:

28 60-1902 If an abandoned vehicle, at the time of abandonment, has no
29 license plates of the current year or valid In Transit stickers issued
30 pursuant to section 60-376 affixed and is of a wholesale value, taking
31 into consideration the condition of the vehicle, of five hundred two

1 ~~hundred fifty~~ dollars or less, title shall immediately vest in the local
2 authority or state agency having jurisdiction thereof as provided in
3 section 60-1904. Any certificate of title issued under this section to
4 the local authority or state agency shall be issued at no cost to such
5 authority or agency.

6 Sec. 3. Section 60-1903, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
7 amended to read:

8 60-1903 (1) Except for vehicles governed by section 60-1902, the
9 local authority or state agency having custody of an abandoned vehicle
10 shall make an inquiry concerning the last-registered owner of such
11 vehicle as follows:

12 (a) Abandoned vehicle with license plates affixed, to the
13 jurisdiction which issued such license plates; or

14 (b) Abandoned vehicle with no license plates affixed, to the
15 Department of Motor Vehicles.

16 (2) The local authority or state agency shall notify the last-
17 registered owner, if any, and any lienholder, if any, within fifteen
18 business days that the vehicle in question has been determined to be an
19 abandoned vehicle and that, if unclaimed, either (a) it will be sold or
20 will be offered at public auction after five days from the date such
21 notice was mailed or (b) title will vest in the local authority or state
22 agency thirty days after the date such notice was mailed. If the agency
23 described in subdivision (1)(a) or (b) of this section also notifies the
24 local authority or state agency that a lien or mortgage exists, such
25 notice shall also be sent to the lienholder or mortgagee. Any person
26 claiming such vehicle shall be required to pay the cost of removal and
27 storage of such vehicle.

28 (3) Title to an abandoned vehicle, if unclaimed, shall vest in the
29 local authority or state agency (a) five days after the date the notice
30 is mailed if the vehicle will be sold or offered at public auction under
31 subdivision (2)(a) of this section, (b) thirty days after the date the

1 notice is mailed if the local authority or state agency will retain the
2 vehicle, or (c) if the last-registered owner cannot be ascertained, when
3 notice of such fact is received.

4 (4) After title to the abandoned vehicle vests pursuant to
5 subsection (3) of this section, the local authority or state agency may
6 retain for use, sell, or auction the abandoned vehicle. If the local
7 authority or state agency has determined that the vehicle should be
8 retained for use, the local authority or state agency shall, at the same
9 time that the notice, if any, is mailed, publish in a newspaper of
10 general circulation in the jurisdiction an announcement that the local
11 authority or state agency intends to retain the abandoned vehicle for its
12 use and that title will vest in the local authority or state agency
13 thirty days after the publication.

14 Sec. 4. Section 60-1903.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is
15 amended to read:

16 60-1903.01 A state or local law enforcement agency which has custody
17 of a motor vehicle for investigatory purposes and has no further need to
18 keep it in custody shall send a certified letter to each of the last-
19 registered owners, if any, or any lienholder, if any, within fifteen
20 calendar days stating that the vehicle is in the custody of the law
21 enforcement agency, that the vehicle is no longer needed for law
22 enforcement purposes, and that after thirty days the agency will dispose
23 of the vehicle. This section shall not apply to motor vehicles subject to
24 forfeiture under section 28-431. No storage fees shall be assessed
25 against the registered owner of a motor vehicle held in custody for
26 investigatory purposes under this section unless the registered owner or
27 the person in possession of the vehicle when it is taken into custody is
28 charged with a felony or misdemeanor related to the offense for which the
29 law enforcement agency took the vehicle into custody. If a registered
30 owner or the person in possession of the vehicle when it is taken into
31 custody is charged with a felony or misdemeanor but is not convicted, the

1 registered owner shall be entitled to a refund of the storage fees.

2 Sec. 5. Original sections 60-1902, 60-1903, and 60-1903.01, Reissue
3 Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and section 60-1901, Revised Statutes
4 Cumulative Supplement, 2020, are repealed.