

HB 1889 -- Tow Truck Operations

Sponsor: Denison

This bill changes the laws regarding towing companies operating tow trucks. In its main provisions, the bill:

(1) Requires a company to have and occupy a verifiable business address with the address displayed in a location visible from the street. Currently, it is only required to have and occupy a verifiable business address;

(2) Requires the total area for storing vehicles, either inside or outside, to be at least 2,000 square feet with fencing a minimum of seven feet high;

(3) Requires the business office to maintain regular business hours from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, for customers or their authorized agent to view and retrieve vehicles at no additional charge during these business hours;

(4) Requires the company to have and maintain an operational land-phone line at the business location;

(5) Requires the company to maintain liability insurance of garage coverage liability of \$1 million per occurrence with an aggregate amount of at least \$2 million, a garage keeper policy with a \$50,000 minimum, and hook and cargo insurance with a \$50,000 minimum;

(6) Requires the company to provide a \$25,000 surety bond from a licensed Missouri business or an irrevocable letter of credit from a licensed Missouri financial institution;

(7) Requires tow drivers to be certified by the Towing and Recovery Association of America (TRAA) or any state or federally funded program as follows:

(a) Beginning August 28, 2013, light-duty operators must have at least TRAA Level 1 Certification or equivalent;

(b) Beginning March 1, 2014, medium-duty operators must have at least TRAA Level 2 Certification or equivalent; and

(c) Beginning August 28, 2014, heavy-duty operators must have at least TRAA Level 3 Certification or equivalent; and

(8) Repeals the provision exempting a towing company located in a second, third, or fourth classification from the provisions of Section 304.154, RSMo.