

HB 2075 with HCA 1 and HCA 2 -- ABANDONED PROPERTY

SPONSOR: Spencer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with Amendments" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 10 to 1.

This bill specifies that when a lienholder makes application to the Department of Revenue for a certificate of title for abandoned property, the lienholder becomes liable for any damage occurring to the property. The bill also requires the abandoned property report to be signed by an officer of the law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the location to which the abandoned property is towed.

HCA #1: This amendment provides that the appropriate law enforcement agency for a tow company owner or manager to contact when wanting to dispose of abandoned property is the local police agency which has jurisdiction over the tow company storage lot.

HCA #2: This amendment provides that abandoned property reports are to be signed by Missouri state highway patrol officers.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill will ease confusion surrounding when a towed vehicle becomes abandoned property, and relieve towing companies from being burdened with abandoned property.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Spencer; Steve Freant, Budget Towing; and Towing And Recovery Association Of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: Those who oppose the bill say that the bill may expose police officers to liability.

Testifying against the bill was Missouri Police Chiefs Association.