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**Towing Dispatch Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Thomas W. Peterson**

Senate Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

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**General Description:**

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This bill changes the requirements for products that tow truck dispatch vendors can provide to tow truck motor carriers.

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**Highlighted Provisions:**

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This bill:

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- ▶ defines terms;

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- ▶ changes the requirements for technology products that tow truck dispatch vendors can provide to tow truck motor carriers;

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- ▶ changes how tow truck motor carriers can be removed from a dispatch list;

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- ▶ prevents persons with an interest in a tow truck motor carrier removed from a dispatch list from joining a dispatch list with a new tow truck motor carrier; and

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- ▶ makes technical changes.

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**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

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None

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**Other Special Clauses:**

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None

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**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

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**AMENDS:**

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**53-1-106.2**, as repealed and reenacted by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 219

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**72-9-604**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 378

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**72-9-607**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2019, Chapter 373

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

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Section 1. Section **53-1-106.2** is amended to read:

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**53-1-106.2 . Towing dispatch program.**

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(1) An interlocal agency established [pursuant to] under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act, a special service district established [pursuant to] under Title 17D,

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31 Chapter 1, Special Service District Act, a political subdivision, or a state agency may  
32 enter into a contract with a vendor that provides a product or technology capable of  
33 increasing efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency in the dispatching of towing  
34 providers and management of towing rotations.

35 (2) The product or technology described in Subsection (1) shall comply with the following  
36 requirements and capabilities:

37 (a) decreasing delays associated with requesting and dispatching a tow truck motor  
38 carrier from an established tow rotation;  
39 (b) increasing information, transparency, and data collection associated with tow  
40 rotation operations[, including dispatching, response time, completion, clearance, and  
41 storage]; and  
42 (c) increasing responder and traffic safety by reducing secondary crashes, responder  
43 time on scene, and the impacts of traffic accidents on traffic flow and safety.

44 (3) The product or technology described in Subsection (1) may not require:

45 (a) a tow truck operator to manipulate a wireless communication device in a manner that  
46 violates Section 41-6a-1716; or  
47 (b) a tow truck operator or tow truck motor carrier to provide or enter information into a  
48 database other than a database described in Section 41-6a-1406.

49 [(3)] (4) A vendor selected to provide towing dispatch management services as described in  
50 this section may not also provide towing, storage, impounding, or other services related  
51 to the operation of a towing provider.

52 Section 2. Section **72-9-604** is amended to read:

53 **72-9-604 . Preemption of local authorities -- Tow trucks.**

54 (1) As used in this section:

55 (a) "Abandoned" means a vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor for which a party described  
56 in Subsection 41-6a-1406(6)(a) with an interest in the vehicle, vessel, or outboard  
57 motor does not, within 30 days after the day on which notice is issued that the  
58 vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor was towed by a towing entity:  
59 (i) pay the relevant fees; and  
60 (ii) remove the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor from the secure storage facility.

61 (b) "Towing dispatch vendor" means the same as that term is defined in Section  
62 53-1-106.2.

63 [(b)] (c) "Towing entity" means:

64 (i) a political subdivision of this state;

- (ii) a state agency;
- (iii) an interlocal agency created under Title 11, Chapter 13, Interlocal Cooperation Act; or
- (iv) a special service district created under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service District Act.

(2)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a political subdivision of this state may [neither] not enact [nor] or enforce any ordinance, regulation, or rule pertaining to a tow truck motor carrier, tow truck operator, or tow truck that:

- (i) conflicts with:
  - (A) any provision of this part;
  - (B) Section 41-6a-1401;
  - (C) Section 41-6a-1407; or
  - (D) rules made by the department under this part; or
- (ii) imposes a maximum rate that deviates from the maximum rates set in rules made by the department pursuant to Subsection 72-9-603(16).

(b) A county or municipal legislative governing body may not charge a fee for the storage of an impounded vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor if the county or municipality:

- (i) is holding the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor as evidence; and
- (ii) will not release the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor to the registered owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent even if the registered owner, lien holder, or the owner's agent satisfies the requirements to release the vehicle, vessel, or outboard motor under Section 41-6a-1406.

(3) A tow truck motor carrier that has a county or municipal business license for a place of business located within that county or municipality may not be required to obtain another business license in order to perform a tow truck service in another county or municipality if there is not a business location in the other county or municipality.

(4) A county or municipal legislative or governing body may not require a tow truck motor carrier, tow truck, or tow truck operator that has been issued a current, authorized towing certificate by the department, as described in Section 72-9-602, to obtain an additional towing certificate.

(5) A county or municipal legislative body may require an annual tow truck safety inspection in addition to the inspections required under Sections 53-8-205 and 72-9-602 if:

99 (a) no fee is charged for the inspection; and  
100 (b) the inspection complies with federal motor carrier safety regulations.

101 (6)(a) A tow truck shall be subject to only one annual safety inspection under Subsection  
102 (5)(b).

103 (b) A county or municipality that requires [the-] an additional annual safety inspection  
104 shall accept the same inspection performed by another county or municipality.

105 [(7)(a)(i) If a towing entity uses a towing dispatch vendor described in Section  
106 53-1-106.2, the towing entity may charge a fee to cover costs associated with the  
107 use of a dispatch vendor as described in Section 53-1-106.2.]

108 [(ii) Except as provided in Subsection (8), a fee described in Subsection (7)(a)(i) may  
109 not exceed the actual costs of the dispatch vendor contracted to provide the  
110 dispatch service.]

111 [(b)(i) Except as provided in Subsection (7)(b)(ii), if a towing entity does not use a  
112 towing dispatch vendor described in Section 53-1-106.2, the towing entity may  
113 not charge a fee to cover costs associated with providing towing dispatch and  
114 rotation service.]

115 [(ii) A special service district created under Title 17D, Chapter 1, Special Service  
116 District Act, that charges a dispatch fee on or before January 1, 2023, may  
117 continue to charge a fee related to dispatch costs.]

118 [(iii) Except as provided in Subsection (8), a fee described in Subsection (7)(b)(ii)  
119 may not exceed an amount reasonably reflective to the actual costs of providing  
120 the towing dispatch and rotation service.]

121 [(e) A towing entity may not charge a fee described in Subsection (7)(a)(i) or (7)(b)(ii)  
122 unless the relevant governing body of the towing entity has approved the fee amount.]

123 [(d) In addition to fees set by the department in rules made in accordance with  
124 Subsection 72-9-603(16), a tow truck operator or a tow truck motor carrier may pass  
125 through a fee described in this Subsection (7) to owners, lien holders, or insurance  
126 providers of towed vehicles, vessels, or outboard motors.]

127 [(8)(a) In addition to the fees described in Subsection (7), a tow truck operator or tow  
128 truck motor carrier may charge an additional fee to absorb unrecovered costs of  
129 abandoned vehicles related to the fees described in Subsections (7)(a)(i) and (7)(b)(ii).]  
130 [(b) Beginning May 3, 2023, and ending on June 30, 2025, a tow truck operator or tow  
131 truck motor carrier may charge a fee described in Subsection (8)(a) in an amount not  
132 to exceed an amount greater than 25% of the relevant fee described in Subsection

133 (7)(a)(i) or (7)(b)(ii).]

134 [(e)(i) Beginning January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter, the towing entity shall,  
135 based on data provided by the State Tax Commission, determine the percentage of  
136 vehicles, vessels, or outboard motors that were abandoned during the previous  
137 year by:]

138 [(A) determining the total number of vehicles, vessels, or outboard motors that  
139 were towed as part of a towing entity's towing rotation during the previous  
140 calendar year that were also abandoned; and]

141 [(B) dividing the number described in Subsection (8)(e)(i)(A) by the total number  
142 of vehicles, vessels, or outboard motors that were towed as part of the towing  
143 entity's towing rotation during the previous calendar year.]

144 [(ii) No later than March 31, 2025, and each year thereafter, the towing entity shall  
145 publish:]

146 [(A) the relevant fee amount described in Subsection (7)(a)(i) or (7)(b)(ii); and]  
147 [(B) the percentage described in Subsection (8)(e)(i).]

148 [(iii) Beginning on July 1, 2025, and each year thereafter, a tow truck operator or a  
149 tow truck motor carrier may charge a fee authorized in Subsection (8)(a) in an  
150 amount equal to the percentage described in Subsection (8)(e)(i) multiplied by the  
151 relevant fee amount described in Subsection (7)(a)(i) or (7)(b)(ii).]

152 [(d) A tow truck operator or tow truck motor carrier shall list on a separate line on the  
153 towing invoice any fee described in this Subsection (8).]

154 (7) A towing entity or a towing dispatch vendor may not charge a fee to a tow truck motor  
155 carrier for the dispatch of a tow truck motor carrier.

156 [(9)] (8) A towing entity may not require a tow truck operator who has received an  
157 authorized towing certificate from the department to submit additional criminal  
158 background check information for inclusion of the tow truck motor carrier on a rotation.

159 [(10)] (9) If a tow truck motor carrier is dispatched as part of a towing rotation, the tow  
160 truck operator that responds may not respond to the location in a tow truck that is owned  
161 by a tow truck motor carrier that is different than the tow truck motor carrier that was  
162 dispatched.

163 [(11)] (10) If a towing entity receives a notice from the department as described in  
164 Subsection 72-9-602(6), the towing entity shall remove the tow truck motor carrier from  
165 the towing entity's towing rotation, contract, or request for proposal as provided in the  
166 notice from the department.

167 (11) A towing entity may not contract with a towing dispatch vendor that requires a tow  
168 truck motor carrier or tow truck operator to manipulate a wireless communication device  
169 in violation of Section 41-6a-1716.

170 (12) A towing entity or towing dispatch vendor may not require a tow truck motor carrier or  
171 tow truck operator to provide or enter information into a database other than a database  
172 described in Section 41-6a-1406.

173 Section 3. Section **72-9-607** is amended to read:

174 **72-9-607 . Required process before removal from towing rotation.**

175 (1) As used in this section, "common ownership" means any percentage of ownership of a  
176 tow truck motor carrier by a person that also holds any percentage of ownership in  
177 another tow truck motor carrier.

178 (2)(a) A political subdivision or state agency that establishes a towing rotation shall  
179 notify the department when suspending or removing a tow truck motor carrier from a  
180 towing rotation.

181 (b) The department, upon receiving notice that a tow truck motor carrier has been  
182 suspended or removed from a towing rotation, shall remove the tow truck motor  
183 carrier from all other towing rotations or contracts within the state.

184 (c) If the department removes or suspends a tow truck motor carrier that shares common  
185 ownership with a tow truck motor carrier that has been removed or suspended from a  
186 towing rotation or contract, the department shall remove the tow truck motor carrier  
187 from all towing rotations or contracts within the state.

188 (3) Each political subdivision or state agency that establishes a towing rotation to facilitate  
189 tows initiated by the political subdivision or state agency shall establish a policy for an  
190 appeals process to hear and decide appeals from a decision to suspend or remove a tow  
191 truck motor carrier or tow truck operator from a towing rotation.

192 [(2)] (4) In conducting an appeal as described in Subsection [(1):] (3):

193 (a) the appeal process may be conducted by a single appeal officer or a panel; and  
194 (b) an individual hearing an appeal, whether as a single appeal officer or as part of a  
195 panel, may not be the same individual who made the decision to suspend or remove  
196 the tow truck motor carrier or tow truck operator from the towing rotation.

197 Section 4. **Effective Date.**

198 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.