

SENATE, No. 4669

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
222nd LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 1, 2026

Sponsored by:
Senator PAUL D. MORIARTY
District 4 (Atlantic, Camden and Gloucester)

SYNOPSIS

Requires towing companies accept electronically transmitted authorization of vehicle release to third party.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning towing companies and supplementing
2 P.L.2007, c.193 (C.56:13-7 et seq.).

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. a. As used in this section, a “third party” means an
8 insurance company, a collision repair company, or any person
9 designated by the owner or operator of the towed vehicle.

10 b. A towing company shall accept from the owner or operator
11 of a motor vehicle that has been towed written authorization
12 submitted by electronic means to release the vehicle to a third party.

13 c. The director shall issue or amend guidelines necessary to
14 effectuate the provisions of this section, including protections to
15 ensure the lawful transfer of property.

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17 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of the seventh
18 month next following enactment, except that the Director of
19 Consumer Affairs may take any anticipatory administrative action
20 as shall be necessary for the implementation of this act.

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23 STATEMENT

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25 This bill requires a towing company to accept electronic
26 authorization for a towed vehicle or its contents to be released to a
27 third party.

28 This bill supplements the “Predatory Towing Prevention Act,”
29 P.L.2007, c.193, to require a towing company registered with the
30 Division of Consumer Affairs to accept electronically transmitted
31 written authorization from a person whose vehicle has been towed
32 to permit the release of the vehicle, or property within the vehicle,
33 to a third party. The bill defines a “third party” as an insurance
34 company, a collision repair company, or any other person the owner
35 or operator of the towed vehicle designates. The bill requires the
36 Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs to issue or amend
37 guidelines to implement the provisions of the bill, ensuring the legal
38 transfer of property.

39 A violation of the “Predatory Towing Prevention Act” is an
40 unlawful practice under the consumer fraud act, P.L.1960, c.39,
41 which is punishable by a monetary penalty of not more than
42 \$10,000 for a first offense and not more than \$20,000 for any
43 subsequent offense. In addition, a violation can result in cease and
44 desist orders issued by the Attorney General, the assessment of
45 punitive damages, and the awarding of treble damages and costs to
46 the injured party.

47 State law currently does not prohibit a person other than the
48 owner or operator of a towed vehicle from retrieving a vehicle from

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1 a towing company. However, towing companies often require the
2 owner or operator of a towed vehicle to appear in person for the
3 release of the vehicle, even when the vehicle is declared a total loss
4 by the insurer or is being transferred to a collision repair facility.