

## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

## 2003 Wisconsin Act 201 [2003 Assembly Bill 419]

## Towing and Storage Charges Associated With Nonmoving Traffic Violations

2003 Acts: www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/

Act Memos: www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act\_memo/act\_memo.htm

Under **current law**, if the owner of a vehicle fails to pay a citation for a nonmoving traffic violation (parking ticket) or appear in court in response to the parking ticket, the authority may notify the Department of Transportation (DOT) to suspend the registration of the vehicle that was ticketed or to refuse registration of any vehicle owned by the violator, or both. Vehicle registration suspension or refusal continues until the person appears in court in response to the parking ticket or pays the amount of the parking ticket and costs, if any, of suspending or refusing vehicle registration.

2003 Wisconsin Act 201 permits the vehicle registration suspension or refusal mechanism to be used by an authority in cases of unpaid towing and storage charges associated with a parking ticket. The Act provides that, if the owner of a vehicle fails to pay outstanding towing and storage charges associated with a parking ticket, the authority may notify DOT to suspend the registration of that vehicle or to refuse registration of any vehicle owned by the vehicle owner or both. Such vehicle registration suspension or refusal continues until the vehicle owner pays the outstanding towing and storage charges and costs, if any, of suspending or refusing vehicle registration.

Effective Date: The effective date of 2003 Wisconsin Act 201 is May 1, 2004.

**Prepared by:** Philip G. Cardis, Staff Attorney April 14, 2004

PGC:rv