



2003 ASSEMBLY BILL 419

June 24, 2003 - Introduced by Representatives LADWIG, GIELOW, GOTTLIEB, HINES, KRUG, OWENS, PETROWSKI, STASKUNAS, TOWNSEND and TURNER, cosponsored by Senators DARLING and STEPP. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber* 345.28 (4) (e) and 345.28 (4) (h); *to renumber and amend*
2 345.28 (4) (b) and 345.28 (4) (c); *to amend* 341.08 (4m), 341.10 (7m), 345.28 (3)
3 (a), 345.28 (5) (a), 345.28 (5m) (a) (intro.), 345.28 (5m) (a) 3., 345.28 (5m) (d) and
4 345.28 (7); and *to create* 345.28 (4) (a) 1m., 345.28 (4) (b) 2., 345.28 (4) (c) 2.,
5 345.28 (4) (e) 2., 345.28 (4) (h) 2. and 345.28 (5r) of the statutes; **relating to:**
6 towing and storage charges associated with nonmoving traffic violations.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

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. Current law also contains specific provisions regarding rented or leased vehicles.

This bill 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 bill provides that, if the owner of a vehicle fails to pay outstanding towing and storage charges associated with a parking ticket, the

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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. These provisions apply to rented or leased vehicles in the same manner as provided under current law for rented or leased vehicles and parking tickets.

For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 341.08 (4m) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 341.08 (4m) At least 30 days prior to the expiration of a vehicle's registration,
3 the department shall mail to the last-known address of the registrant a notice of the
4 date upon which the registration must be renewed and an application form for
5 renewal of registration. The application form or an accompanying document shall
6 include a list of any unpaid citations for nonmoving traffic violations or any
7 judgments for violation of ch. 110, 194, or 341 to 350, an administrative rule of the
8 department, or an ordinance enacted in accordance with s. 349.06, including parking
9 violations, and of any unpaid towing and storage charges associated with nonmoving
10 traffic violations entered against the registrant ~~which~~ that remain unpaid. The list
11 of unpaid citations for nonmoving traffic violations and of unpaid towing and storage
12 charges associated with nonmoving traffic violations shall be based on information
13 obtained under s. 345.28 (4). The list of unpaid judgments shall be based on
14 information obtained under s. 345.47 (1) (d). If there is a citation for any nonmoving
15 traffic violation entered against the registrant ~~which~~ that is unpaid, he or she shall
16 be notified that the vehicle may not be registered until the citation is paid or the
17 registrant appears in court to respond to the citation. If there are any towing and

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1 storage charges entered against the registrant that are unpaid, he or she shall be
2 notified that the vehicle may not be registered until such towing and storage charges
3 are paid. If there is a judgment entered against the registrant which is unpaid, he
4 or she shall be notified that the vehicle may not be registered until the judgment is
5 paid.

6 **SECTION 2.** 341.10 (7m) of the statutes is amended to read:

7 341.10 (7m) An authority has notified the department under s. 345.28 (4) that
8 a citation for a nonmoving traffic violation has been issued against the applicant and
9 the applicant has not paid the citation or appeared in court to respond to the citation
10 or that the applicant has not paid any towing and storage charges associated with
11 a citation for a nonmoving traffic violation issued against the applicant.

12 **SECTION 3.** 345.28 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

13 345.28 (3) (a) If the person does not pay the forfeiture or appear in court in
14 response to the citation for a nonmoving traffic violation on the date specified in the
15 citation or, if no date is specified in the citation, within 28 days after the citation is
16 issued, the authority ~~which~~ that issued the citation may issue a summons under s.
17 968.04 (3) (b) to the person and, in lieu of or in addition to issuing the summons, may
18 proceed under sub. (4) or (5) but, except as provided in this section, no warrant may
19 be issued for the person. If the person does not pay any towing and storage charges
20 associated with a citation for a nonmoving traffic violation, the authority that issued
21 the citation may proceed under sub. (4).

22 **SECTION 4.** 345.28 (4) (a) 1m. of the statutes is created to read:

23 345.28 (4) (a) 1m. If the person does not pay the outstanding towing and storage
24 charges associated with a nonmoving traffic violation, the authority may notify the

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1 department in the form and manner prescribed by the department that the towing
2 and storage charges remain unpaid.

3 **SECTION 5.** 345.28 (4) (b) of the statutes is renumbered 345.28 (4) (b) 1. and
4 amended to read:

5 345.28 (4) (b) 1. The notice to the department under par. (a) 1. shall include the
6 name and last-known address of the person against whom the citation was issued,
7 the date the citation was issued, the license number of the vehicle involved,
8 certification that 2 notices which meet the requirements under par. (c) 1. or sub. (5m)
9 (d) have been mailed to the last-known address of the person against whom the
10 citation was issued and that the citation remains unpaid on the date specified in the
11 citation or, if no date is specified in the citation, 28 days after the citation was issued,
12 the place that the citation may be paid, the means by which the citation may be
13 contested and the action the department is to take.

14 **SECTION 6.** 345.28 (4) (b) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

15 345.28 (4) (b) 2. The notice to the department under par. (a) 1m. shall include
16 the name and last-known address of the person against whom the outstanding
17 towing and storage charges apply, the license number of the vehicle involved,
18 certification that 2 notices which meet the requirements under par. (c) 2. have been
19 mailed to the last-known address of the person against whom the towing and storage
20 charges apply and that the towing and storage charges remain unpaid, the place
21 where the towing and storage charges may be paid, and the action that the
22 department is to take.

23 **SECTION 7.** 345.28 (4) (c) of the statutes is renumbered 345.28 (4) (c) 1. and
24 amended to read:

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1 345.28 (4) (c) 1. The notices to the person required under par. (b) 1. shall be
2 mailed on 2 separate days to the last-known address of the person to whom the
3 citation was issued and shall include the date the citation was issued, the license
4 number of the vehicle involved, the place the citation may be paid, the means by
5 which the citation may be contested and the date by which the person must pay or
6 contest the citation to avoid further action by the authority. The notice shall inform
7 the person of the specific actions which the authority and the courts are authorized
8 to take under this section if the person fails to pay the forfeiture or appear in court
9 in response to the citation by the date specified in the notice.

10 **SECTION 8.** 345.28 (4) (c) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

11 345.28 (4) (c) 2. The notices to the person required under par. (b) 2. shall be
12 mailed on 2 separate days to the last-known address of the person to whom the
13 outstanding towing and storage charges apply and shall include the license number
14 of the vehicle involved, the place where the towing and storage charges may be paid,
15 and the date by which the person must pay the towing and storage charges to avoid
16 further action by the authority. The notice shall inform the person of the specific
17 actions that the authority and the courts are authorized to take under this section
18 if the person fails to pay the towing and storage charges by the date specified in the
19 notice. A notice under this subdivision may be included in a notice mailed to a person
20 under subd. 1. with respect to the nonmoving traffic violation associated with the
21 towing and storage charges.

22 **SECTION 9.** 345.28 (4) (e) of the statutes is renumbered 345.28 (4) (e) 1.

23 **SECTION 10.** 345.28 (4) (e) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

24 345.28 (4) (e) 2. If the person subsequently pays the amount of the outstanding
25 towing and storage charges and the costs, if any, under par. (d), the department shall

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1 be immediately notified in the form and manner prescribed by the department. If
2 the vehicle to which the towing and storage charges apply is owned by a person
3 engaged in the business of renting or leasing motor vehicles and the owner pays the
4 costs, if any, under par. (d) and 50% of the amount of the outstanding towing and
5 storage charges, the authority shall immediately notify the department in the form
6 and manner prescribed by the department.

7 **SECTION 11.** 345.28 (4) (h) of the statutes is renumbered 345.28 (4) (h) 1.

8 **SECTION 12.** 345.28 (4) (h) 2. of the statutes is created to read:

9 345.28 (4) (h) 2. If an authority receives payment of 50% of the amount of the
10 outstanding towing and storage charges from the owner of a leased or rented vehicle
11 to which the towing and storage charges apply and receives payment of the amount
12 of the outstanding towing and storage charges from the lessee or renter of the vehicle
13 to which the towing and storage charges apply, the authority shall refund to the
14 owner the 50% payment received.

15 **SECTION 13.** 345.28 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

16 345.28 (5) (a) In lieu of the procedure under sub. (4), if the person does not pay
17 the forfeiture or appear in court in response to the citation for a nonmoving traffic
18 violation on the date specified in the citation or, if no date is specified in the citation,
19 within 28 days after the citation was issued, the authority, after sending 2 notices
20 which meet the requirements under sub. (4) (c) 1, may issue a warrant under par.
21 (b) for the person.

22 **SECTION 14.** 345.28 (5m) (a) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

23 345.28 (5m) (a) (intro.) No notice under sub. (4) (a) 1 may be sent to the
24 department, or if the notice has already been sent the notice shall be canceled, and

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1 no further action may be taken against the owner under sub. (4) or (5) or s. 341.10
2 (7m) or 341.63 (1) (c) if:

3 **SECTION 15.** 345.28 (5m) (a) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

4 345.28 **(5m)** (a) 3. The owner of the vehicle provides the information required
5 under s. 343.46 (3) for such renter or lessee to the authority who issued the citation
6 within 10 days after the 2nd notice was sent to the owner under sub. (4) (c) 1.; and

7 **SECTION 16.** 345.28 (5m) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

8 345.28 **(5m)** (d) The notices to the renter or lessee required under sub. (4) (b)
9 1. shall be mailed on 2 separate days to the last-known address of the renter or lessee
10 and shall include the information specified in sub. (4) (c) 1. and the name of the owner
11 of the vehicle.

12 **SECTION 17.** 345.28 (5r) of the statutes is created to read:

13 345.28 **(5r)** (a) No notice under sub. (4) (a) 2. may be sent to the department,
14 or if the notice has already been sent the notice shall be canceled, and no further
15 action may be taken against the owner under sub. (4) or (5) or s. 341.10 (7m) or 341.63
16 (1) (c) if:

17 1. The vehicle to which the towing and storage charges apply is owned by a
18 person engaged in the business of renting or leasing motor vehicles;

19 2. At the time of the towing and storage the vehicle was in the possession of a
20 renter or lessee;

21 3. The owner of the vehicle provides the information required under s. 343.46
22 (3) for such renter or lessee to the authority who issued the citation within 10 days
23 after the 2nd notice was sent to the owner under sub. (4) (c) 2.; and

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1 4. After being notified by the authority, the renter or lessee identified under
2 subd. 3. pays the amount of the outstanding towing and storage charges within 30
3 days after the 2nd notice from the authority is mailed.

4 (b) If the renter or lessee does not pay the amount of the outstanding towing
5 and storage charges, the authority may notify the department under sub. (4) (a) 1m.
6 that the towing and storage charges remain unpaid. The action which the authority
7 shall specify that the department take under sub. (4) (a) 2. is limited to refusal of the
8 registration of any vehicle owned by the renter or lessee.

9 (c) 1. If the renter or lessee does not pay the amount of the outstanding towing
10 and storage charges within 30 days after the 2nd notice from the authority is mailed
11 to the renter or lessee, the owner shall pay the authority 50% of the amount of the
12 outstanding towing and storage charges. The authority shall notify the owner in
13 writing of its responsibility for this payment.

14 2. If the owner does not pay 50% of the amount of the outstanding towing and
15 storage charges within 30 days after notice under subd. 1. has been mailed to the
16 owner, the authority may send a notice to the department under sub. (4) (a) 1m. The
17 action which the authority shall specify that the department take under sub. (4) (a)
18 2. is limited to suspension of the registration of the vehicle to which the towing and
19 storage charges apply.

20 (d) The notices to the renter or lessee required under sub. (4) (b) 2. shall be
21 mailed on 2 separate days to the last-known address of the renter or lessee and shall
22 include the information specified in sub. (4) (c) 2. and the name of the owner of the
23 vehicle.

24 **SECTION 18.** 345.28 (7) of the statutes is amended to read:

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1 345.28 (7) Nothing in this section prevents a court from issuing a warrant
2 under s. 345.36 or 345.37 if the person appears in court in response to a citation for
3 a nonmoving traffic violation or after notice by the authority who issued the citation
4 or the department under sub. (4) with respect to the citation or on the date specified
5 by the officer or the court under sub. (5) and then fails to appear in court at any time
6 fixed by subsequent postponement. Unless the case is tried immediately with the
7 person's consent, any person who is arrested on a warrant issued under this
8 subsection may be released on his or her own recognizance or on posting bond or may
9 be released without bail and shall be released if the person posts cash bail for his or
10 her appearance.

SECTION 19. Initial applicability.

11 (1) This act first applies to towing and storage charges that remain unpaid on
12 the effective date of this subsection.

14 (END)