

CITY OF SEATTLE  
ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_

COUNCIL BILL 118266

AN ORDINANCE relating to the towing and storage of vehicles; increasing the maximum fee that towing companies may charge for storage of a privately impounded vehicle, and amending Section 6.214.220 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to raise the maximum storage fee for private impounds to a rate that is reasonable and compensable to allow tow companies to cover their costs and to allow for a reasonable profit margin; and

WHEREAS, a maximum storage rate of \$30.37 for each 12-hour period is reasonable and compensable; NOW, THEREFORE,

**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Subsection 6.214.220.C of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 123997, is amended as follows:

**6.214.220 Maximum private impound fees for towing service, uncompleted tow, storage, and after-hours release**

\* \* \*

C. Storage fee: The maximum storage fee that tow companies may charge for storing a private impound vehicle shall be no more than ~~(((\$15.50 for each 12-hour increment))~~ \$30.37 for each 12-hour period that the car remains in storage charged to the nearest half day. The Director shall adjust the maximum storage fee for private property impounds by rule for inflation on an annual basis following publication of the preceding year's percentage change in the annual Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) Transportation, or a successor index thereto, as determined by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, provided that any such adjustment in the storage rate shall not result in a storage rate that exceeds the maximum daily storage rate allowed under RCW



1 ~~46.55.118(1)(b). ((The Director shall revise by rule the maximum storage fee for private~~  
2 ~~property impounds to match the maximum storage fee allowed under the City towing contracts~~  
3 ~~relating to public impounds performed for the Seattle Police Department made pursuant to~~  
4 ~~Chapter 11.30, whenever there is a change to the storage rates under those contracts.))~~

5 \* \* \*

6 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
7 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
8 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

9 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014, and  
10 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this  
11 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

12 \_\_\_\_\_  
13 \_\_\_\_\_  
14 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

15  
16 Approved by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

17 \_\_\_\_\_  
18 \_\_\_\_\_  
19 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

20  
21 Filed by me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2014.

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 \_\_\_\_\_  
24 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

25 (Seal)



**FISCAL NOTE FOR NON-CAPITAL PROJECTS**

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Contact Person/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Analyst/Phone:</b>
Legislative	Tony Kilduff/4-3580	N/A

**Legislation Title:**

AN ORDINANCE relating to the towing and storage of vehicles; increasing the maximum fee that towing companies may charge for storage of a privately impounded vehicle, and amending Section 6.214.220 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Summary of the Legislation:**

This legislation would increase the storage fee for privately impounded vehicles from \$15.50 per 12-hour period to \$30.37 and provides for the fee to increase at the rate of inflation annually.

**Background:**

The City regulates the towing and impounding of vehicles removed from private property by private towing companies. The current impound rate of \$15.50 per 12-hour period is essentially half the rate set by Washington state and effective elsewhere in state, despite Seattle having among the state's most expensive real estate. This legislation corrects the anomaly.

**This legislation does not have any financial implications.**

**This legislation has financial implications.**

**Other Implications:**

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**  
No.
- b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing the legislation?**  
N/A.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
Yes, the Department of Finance and Administrative Services enforces the fees and regulations related to private impounds.
- d) **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**



None.

e) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

No.

f) **Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

No.

g) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

No.

h) **Other Issues:**

None.

**List attachments to the fiscal note below: None.**