

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 263

BY SENATOR OWEN

MOTOR CARRIERS. Provides relative to the Louisiana Towing and Storage Act. (8/1/26)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:1720 and 1720.1, relative to the Louisiana Towing and
3 Storage Act; to provide for establishing ownership by storage or parking facilities;
4 to provide for establishing state of origin of the vehicle; to provide for procedures
5 to establish ownership and state of origin; to provide for surrendering a vehicle to the
6 owner or lienholder; to provide for surrendering personal property not affixed to the
7 vehicle; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 32:1720 and 1720.1 are hereby amended and reenacted to read as
10 follows:

11 §1720. Owner notification of a stored vehicle; right to request administrative
12 hearing

13 **A. Within five business days of obtaining a vehicle, the owner of the**
14 **towing, storage, or parking facility shall perform a good faith effort to establish**
15 **the state of registration and title of a vehicle that has been stored by an**
16 **examination of all of the following:**

17 **(1) Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles' database for the owner and any**

1 lienholders.

2 (2) When there is not a current registration record for the vehicle on file
3 with the department, the electronic National Motor Vehicle Title Information
4 System, or an equivalent commercially- available system; to determine the state
5 of registration.

6 (3) The vehicle for any type of tag, tag record, temporary tag, regular
7 tag, an inspection sticker or other stickers and decals that may indicate a state
8 of possible registration.

9 (4) When there is no address of the owner on the impound report or
10 when the vehicle was towed at the request of a law enforcement officer, the law
11 enforcement report to determine whether an out-of-state address is indicated
12 from driver's license information, a tag number, or other information
13 identifying the vehicle.

14 (5) When it is a private tow, the trip sheet or tow ticket of the tow truck
15 operator to determine whether a tag was on the vehicle at the beginning of the
16 tow.

17 (6) The interior of the vehicle for any papers that may be in the glove
18 box, trunk, or other areas for the state of registration.

19 ~~A.B.~~ Within ~~ten~~ seven business days from the date the department or its
20 authorized agent sends the owner information of the stored vehicle, which includes
21 information regarding the holder of any lien on the vehicle, to the owner of the
22 towing, storage, or parking facility, the owner of the towing, storage, or parking
23 facility shall send notice with a certificate of mailing to the owner of the vehicle at
24 the owner's last known address and to the holder of any lien on the vehicle. If the
25 department or its authorized agent sends the owner information electronically, the
26 owner of the towing, storage, or parking facility shall send notice within five
27 business days.

28 ~~B.C.~~ The notice required in Subsection ~~A B~~ of this Section shall include the
29 following information:

1 (1) The name, location, and physical and mailing addresses of the storage or
2 parking facility.

3 (2) A description of the vehicle including the year, make, model, and vehicle
4 identification number.

5 (3) The vehicle license plate number, state of issuance, and expiration date,
6 if known.

7 (4) The name of the person or agency that had the vehicle towed or placed
8 in storage.

9 (5) The date the vehicle was placed in storage and any applicable adjusted
10 storage dates.

11 (6) The condition of the vehicle.

12 (7) All outstanding charges against the stored vehicle.

13 (8) Notice of the right of the owner and holder of any lien on the vehicle to
14 an administrative hearing as required in R.S. 32:1727. The notice shall contain the
15 deadline for requesting an administrative hearing and shall also contain information
16 regarding the date by which the request for an administrative hearing shall be mailed
17 by certified mail, return receipt requested.

18 **D. Failure to make good faith efforts to comply with the notice**
19 **requirements of this Section precludes the imposition of any storage charges**
20 **against the vehicle.**

21 §1720.1. Surrender of stored vehicle to **owner or** lienholder

22 **A. When surrendering a stored vehicle, a towing-storage operator shall**
23 **accept an original or a copy of any of the following documents as evidence of a**
24 **person's interest in a vehicle:**

25 **(1) An electronic title.**

26 **(2) A paper title.**

27 **(3) A contract between a lender and the owner of the vehicle.**

28 **(4) A contract between a lessor and the lessee of the vehicle.**

29 **(5) Credentials establishing the person as an employee or contract agent**

1 **of an insurance company along with documentation identifying the vehicle by**
2 **the vehicle identification number.**

3 **(6) A written agreement evidencing that the person is an agent of the**
4 **vehicle owner or lienholder.**

5 **B.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, if a vehicle
6 placed in a storage facility or a repair or body shop is encumbered by a lien, and the
7 storage or repair or body shop operator mails the notification required by R.S.
8 32:1720, the storage or repair or body shop operator shall surrender possession of the
9 vehicle to the holder of any lien on the vehicle on behalf of the registered owner. The
10 holder of any lien on the vehicle is the holder shown on the records of the office of
11 motor vehicles. No such surrender shall occur until the secured party makes a
12 complete payment of the towing and storage charges and executes a hold harmless
13 agreement, agreeing to indemnify the storage or repair or body shop operator for
14 surrender of the vehicle to the secured party.

15 **C. Upon surrendering the vehicle, a towing-storage operator shall**
16 **provide an itemized invoice containing all of the following information:**

17 **(1) The date and time the vehicle was towed.**

18 **(2) The location to which the vehicle was towed.**

19 **(3) The name, address, and telephone number of the towing-storage**
20 **operator.**

21 **(4) A description of the towed vehicle, including the color, make, model,**
22 **model year, and vehicle identification number.**

23 **(5) The license plate number and state of registration for the towed**
24 **vehicle.**

25 **(6) The cost of the initial towing service.**

26 **(7) The cost of any storage fees, expressed as a daily rate.**

27 **(8) Other fees, including administrative fees, vehicle search fees, fees for**
28 **hazardous material and nonhazardous material cleanup, and fees for labor.**

29 **(9) A list of the services that were performed under a warranty or that**

1 were otherwise performed at no cost to the owner of the vehicle.

2 D. A towing-storage operator shall permit vehicle owners, lienholders,
 3 insurance company representatives, or their agents, whose interest in the vehicle
 4 is evidenced by any of the documents listed in Subsection A of this Section, to
 5 inspect the towed vehicle and shall release to the owner, lienholder, or agent the
 6 vehicle all personal property not affixed to the vehicle which was in the vehicle
 7 at the time the vehicle came into the custody of the towing-storage operator. The
 8 inspection and release of the vehicle shall be permitted within one hour after the
 9 owner, lienholder, insurance company representative, or their agent presents
 10 any of the documents listed in Subsection A of this Section to the towing-storage
 11 operator during normal business hours at the site where the vehicle is stored.

12 E. Notwithstanding Paragraph (A)(6) of this Subsection, a rental vehicle
 13 agreement is not evidence that the person who rented a vehicle is an agent of the
 14 rental vehicle owner for the purpose of releasing the vehicle. However, a
 15 towing-storage operator shall release to the renter of a rental vehicle all
 16 personal property belonging to the renter which is not affixed to the rental
 17 vehicle within one hour after the renter's arrival.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 263 Original

2026 Regular Session

Owen

Present law provides for the owner of the towing, storage, or parking facility to send notice with a certificate of mailing to the owner of the vehicle at the owner's last known address and to the holder of any lien on the vehicle within 10 business days from the date the department or its authorized agent sends the owner information of the stored vehicle to the owner of the towing, storage, or parking facility. Present law further provides when the department sends the information electronically, the owner of the towing, storage, or parking facility will send notice within five business days. Proposed law retains present law and changes from 10 business days to five business days.

Proposed law retains present law and requires that within five business days of obtaining a vehicle, the owner of the towing, storage, or parking facility perform a good faith effort to establish the state of registration and title of a vehicle by examining the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicle's database, the electronic National Motor Vehicle Title Information System or an equivalent to determine the state of registration; the vehicle for any type of tag, tag record, temporary tag, regular tag, an inspection sticker or other stickers and decals that may

indicate a state of possible registration; the law enforcement report to determine whether an out-of-state address is indicated, a tag number or other information identifying the vehicle; the trip sheet or tow ticket; and when the vehicle is unlocked, the interior of the vehicle for any papers that may be in the glove box, trunk, or other areas for a state of registration.

Proposed law provides for technical changes.

Proposed law provides for prohibition on storage charges when it has been determined a good faith effort to comply with notice requirements was not adhered to.

Proposed law provides for evidence of a persons interest when surrendering a stored vehicle to owner or lienholder including electronic title, paper title, a contract between a lender and the owner of the vehicle, a contract between a lessor and the lessee of the vehicle, credentials establishing the person as an employee or contract agent of an insurance company, a written agreement evidencing that the person is an agent of the vehicle owner or lienholder.

Present law provides when a vehicle placed in a storage facility or a repair or body shop is encumbered by a lien, and the storage or repair or body shop operator mails the notification to the storage or repair or body shop operator shall surrender possession of the vehicle to the holder of any lien on the vehicle on behalf of the registered owner. Present law further provides the holder of any lien on the vehicle is the holder shown on the records of the office of motor vehicles and surrender does not occur until the secured party makes a complete payment of the towing and storage charges and executes a hold harmless agreement, agreeing to indemnify the storage or repair or body shop operator for surrender of the vehicle.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that when surrendering the vehicle, a towing-storage operator must provide an itemized invoice containing:

- (1) The date and time the vehicle was towed.
- (2) The location to which the vehicle was towed.
- (3) The name, address, and telephone number of the towing-storage operator.
- (4) A description of the towed vehicle, including the color, make, model, model year, and vehicle identification number.
- (5) The license plate number and state of registration for the towed vehicle.
- (6) The cost of the initial towing service.
- (7) The cost of any storage fees, expressed as a per day rate and total cost.
- (8) Other fees, including administrative fees, vehicle search fees, fees for hazardous material and nonhazardous material cleanup, and fees for labor.
- (9) A list of the services that were performed under a warranty or that were otherwise performed at no cost to the owner of the vehicle.

Proposed law further provides that a towing-storage operator will permit vehicle owners, lienholders, insurance company representatives, or their agents whose interest in the vehicle is evidenced, to inspect the towed vehicle and release to the owner, lienholder, or agent of the vehicle all personal property in the vehicle when the vehicle was taken by the storage operator.

Proposed law further provides the inspection and release of the vehicle within one hour after presentation of any of the required documents during normal business hours at the site where

the vehicle is stored.

Proposed law further provides that a rental vehicle agreement is not evidence that the person who rented a vehicle is an agent of the rental vehicle owner for the purpose of releasing the vehicle.

Proposed law provides, a towing-storage operator must release to the renter of a rental vehicle all personal property belonging to the renter within one hour after the renter's arrival.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Amends R.S. 32:1720 and 1720.1)