ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 408-ASSEMBLYWOMAN BROWN-MAY

MARCH 27, 2023

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to motor vehicles. (BDR 43-95)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly
Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City
Jail or Detention Facility.
Effect on the State: No.

EXPLANATION - Matter in bolded italics is new; matter between brackets formitted material is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; authorizing the removal of a vehicle or part of a vehicle from the highway following the issuance of a citation for reckless driving; requiring the inclusion of certain information regarding hardship tariffs in the annual report submitted by the operator of a tow car to the Nevada Transportation Authority; revising provisions governing the towing of a motor vehicle requested by a person other than the owner of the vehicle; prohibiting a tow car operator from charging fees or costs for the storage of a vehicle until the vehicle has been stored for a certain period; requiring the operator of a tow car to consider charging a hardship tariff instead of the normal rate for the storage and removal of the vehicle under certain circumstances; requiring the operator of a tow car to display certain information in his or her place of business; providing a penalty; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel's Digest:

Existing law authorizes a law enforcement officer to remove, or cause to be removed, a vehicle or part of a vehicle found on the highway to a place of safekeeping under certain circumstances. (NRS 484B.443) **Section 1** of this bill authorizes a law enforcement officer to take such action if the person driving or in actual physical control of the vehicle is issued a citation for reckless driving. **Section 3** of this bill provides that the provisions of law requiring a tow car operator to allow the owner, or agent of the owner, of a motor vehicle that has been





connected to a tow car to obtain the release of the vehicle at the point of origination of the towing do not apply if the towing was requested by a law enforcement officer pursuant to the amendatory provisions of **section 1**.

Existing law makes it unlawful for a person to drive a vehicle in an unauthorized trick driving display or to facilitate an unauthorized trick driving display on a public highway. (NRS 484B.653) **Section 2** of this bill additionally prohibits a person from driving a vehicle in an unauthorized trick driving display or facilitating an unauthorized trick driving display on premises to which the public has access.

Existing law provides that if the towing of a motor vehicle is requested by a person other than the owner, an agent of the owner, a law enforcement officer or other person employed to enforce the laws, ordinances and codes of a local government, the operator of a tow car shall not charge any fee or cost for the storage of the motor vehicle until at least 48 hours after the motor vehicle arrives and is registered at the place of storage. (NRS 706.4477) **Section 3.1** of this bill provides that the operator of a tow car shall not charge any fee or cost for the storage of the motor vehicle until at least 24 hours after the motor vehicle arrives and is registered at the place of storage.

Existing law provides that an owner of real property may not have a vehicle towed from a residential complex solely because the registration of the vehicle is expired. (NRS 706.4477) **Section 3.1**: (1) prohibits an operator from charging any fee or cost for the towing of a vehicle solely because the registration of the vehicle is expired; and (2) provides that the towing of such a vehicle by an operator is a violation subject to certain penalties.

Existing law further requires the owner of a vehicle that has been towed to pay a hardship tariff, instead of the normal rate, for the cost of removal and storage of the vehicle if: (1) the vehicle was towed from a residential complex at the request of a person other than the owner of the vehicle or the owner's authorized agent because the vehicle was not registered in this State or any other state; and (2) the owner is unable to pay the normal rate for reasons outside of the owner's control. (NRS 706.4477) Section 3.1 removes the requirement for the owner of a vehicle to pay a hardship tariff under these circumstances and instead requires an operator of a tow car to consider charging a hardship tariff for the removal and storage of a motor vehicle if the owner is unable to pay the normal rate for reasons outside of the owner's control. Section 3.1 requires an operator of a tow car to display a written notice in his or her place of business: (1) regarding the requirement for the operator to consider charging a hardship tariff; and (2) containing a telephone number for the Authority where a person may report certain alleged violations of law.

Existing law requires each fully regulated carrier, operator of a tow car and common or contract motor carrier regulated by the Nevada Transportation Authority to furnish an annual report to the Authority in the form and detail required by the Authority. (NRS 706.167) **Section 2.9** of this bill requires the annual report submitted by the operator of a tow car to include the number of times that the operator charged a hardship tariff during the calendar year.



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 484B.443 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 484B.443 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, whenever any law enforcement officer finds a vehicle standing upon a highway in violation of any of the provisions of chapters 484A to 484E, inclusive, of NRS, the officer may move the vehicle, or require the driver or person in charge of the vehicle to move it, to a position off the paved, improved or main-traveled part of the highway.
- 2. Whenever any law enforcement officer finds a vehicle, the cargo of a vehicle or other property unattended, disabled or spilled upon any highway, bridge or causeway, or in any tunnel, where the vehicle, cargo or property constitutes an obstruction to traffic, interferes with the normal flow of traffic or otherwise endangers public safety, the officer or the law enforcement agency employing the officer, in coordination with unified command, if applicable, may provide for the immediate removal of the vehicle, cargo or property to a position where the vehicle, cargo or property no longer constitutes an obstruction to traffic, interferes with the normal flow of traffic or otherwise endangers public safety.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, any law enforcement officer may, subject to the requirements of subsection 4, remove any vehicle or part of a vehicle found on the highway, or cause it to be removed, to a garage or other place of safekeeping if:
- (a) The vehicle has been involved in a crash and is so disabled that its normal operation is impossible or impractical and the person or persons in charge of the vehicle are incapacitated by reason of physical injury or other reason to such an extent as to be unable to provide for its removal or custody, or are not in the immediate vicinity of the disabled vehicle;
- (b) The person driving or in actual physical control of the vehicle is arrested for any alleged offense for which the officer is required by law to take the person arrested before a proper magistrate without unnecessary delay; [or]
- (c) The person driving or in actual physical control of the vehicle has been issued a citation for reckless driving pursuant to NRS 484B.653; or
- (d) The person in charge of the vehicle is unable to provide for its custody or removal within:
- (1) Twenty-four hours after abandoning the vehicle on any freeway, United States highway or other primary arterial highway.





- (2) Seventy-two hours after abandoning the vehicle on any other highway.
- 4. Unless a different course of action is necessary to preserve evidence of a criminal offense, a law enforcement officer who wishes to have a vehicle or part of a vehicle removed from a highway pursuant to subsection 3 shall, in accordance with any applicable protocol such as a rotational schedule regarding the selection and use of towing services, cause the vehicle or part of a vehicle to be removed by a tow car operator. The tow car operator shall, to the extent practicable and using the shortest and most direct route, remove the vehicle or part of a vehicle to the garage of the tow car operator unless directed otherwise by the officer. The tow car operator is liable for any loss of or damage to the vehicle or its contents that occurs while the vehicle is in the possession or control of the tow car operator.
- 5. A person or entity, including a law enforcement officer, the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer, unified command or a tow car operator who provides for the removal of a vehicle, the cargo of a vehicle or other property pursuant to subsection 2:
- (a) Is not liable for any loss of or damage to the vehicle, the contents of the vehicle, the cargo or the property that is removed; and
- (b) Must make a reasonable attempt, as soon as practicable, to notify the owner of the vehicle, cargo or property as to the location of the vehicle, cargo or property if the owner of the vehicle or property is not present at the time of removal and the owner of the vehicle, cargo or property is ascertainable by the officer.
- 6. All costs incurred under the provisions of subsection 2 must be borne by the owner of the vehicle, cargo or property.
 - 7. As used in this section:
- (a) "Traffic incident" has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 484B.607.
- (b) "Unified command" means a group of law enforcement officers or other persons organized to provide a coordinated response to a traffic incident which requires two or more responding entities within a jurisdiction or which requires responding entities from two or more jurisdictions. The responding entities may include, without limitation, police, fire or emergency medical personnel, a tow car operator, or a state or local governmental entity responsible for roadway or other infrastructure repair or maintenance.
 - **Sec. 2.** NRS 484B.653 is hereby amended to read as follows: 484B.653 1. It is unlawful for a person to:





- (a) Drive a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property on a highway or premises to which the public has access.
- (b) Drive a vehicle in an unauthorized speed contest on a highway or premises to which the public has access.
- (c) Organize an unauthorized speed contest on a highway or premises to which the public has access.
- (d) Drive a vehicle in an unauthorized trick driving display on a [public] highway [...] or premises to which the public has access.
- (e) Facilitate an unauthorized trick driving display on a [public] highway [...] or premises to which the public has access.
- A violation of paragraph (a), (b) or (d) of this subsection or subsection 1 of NRS 484B.550 constitutes reckless driving.
- 2. If, while violating the provisions of subsections 1 to 5, inclusive, of NRS 484B.270, NRS 484B.280, paragraph (a) or (c) of subsection 1 of NRS 484B.283, NRS 484B.350, subsections 1 to 4, inclusive, of NRS 484B.363 or subsection 1 of NRS 484B.600, the driver of a motor vehicle on a highway or premises to which the public has access is the proximate cause of a collision with a pedestrian or a person riding a bicycle, an electric bicycle or an electric scooter, the violation constitutes reckless driving.
- 3. A person who violates paragraph (a) of subsection 1 is guilty of a misdemeanor and:
 - (a) For the first offense, shall be punished:
- (1) By a fine of not less than \$250 but not more than \$1,000; or
- (2) By both fine and imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.
 - (b) For the second offense, shall be punished:
- (1) By a fine of not less than \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500; or
- (2) By both fine and imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.
 - (c) For the third and each subsequent offense, shall be punished:
- (1) By a fine of not less than \$1,500 but not more than \$2,000; or
- (2) By both fine and imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.
- 4. A person who violates paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection 1 or commits a violation which constitutes reckless driving pursuant to subsection 2 is guilty of a misdemeanor and:
 - (a) For the first offense:
- (1) Shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$250 but not more than \$1,000;





- (2) Shall perform not less than 50 hours, but not more than 99 hours, of community service; and
- (3) May be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.
 - (b) For the second offense:

- (1) Shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500;
- (2) Shall perform not less than 100 hours, but not more than 199 hours, of community service; and
- (3) May be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.
 - (c) For the third and each subsequent offense:
- (1) Shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,500 but not more than \$2,000;
 - (2) Shall perform 200 hours of community service; and
- (3) May be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.
- 5. In addition to any fine, community service and imprisonment imposed upon a person pursuant to subsection 4, the court:
- (a) Shall issue an order suspending the driver's license of the person for a period of not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years and requiring the person to surrender all driver's licenses then held by the person;
- (b) Within 5 days after issuing an order pursuant to paragraph (a), shall forward to the Department any licenses, together with a copy of the order;
- (c) For the first offense, may issue an order impounding, for a period of 15 days, any vehicle that is registered to the person who violates paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection 1 if the vehicle is used in the commission of the offense; and
- (d) For the second and each subsequent offense, shall issue an order impounding, for a period of 30 days, any vehicle that is registered to the person who violates paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection 1 if the vehicle is used in the commission of the offense.
- 6. A person who violates paragraph (d) of subsection 1 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor and:
 - (a) For the first offense:
- (1) Shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500;
- (2) Shall perform not less than 100 hours, but not more than 199 hours, of community service; and
- (3) May be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 364 days.
 - (b) For the second offense and each subsequent offense:





- (1) Shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,500 but not more than \$2,000;
 - (2) Shall perform 200 hours of community service; and
 - (3) May be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 364 days.
 - 7. A person who violates paragraph (e) of subsection 1 is guilty of:
 - (a) For the first offense, a misdemeanor and:
 - (1) Shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000;
 - (2) Shall perform not less than 50 hours, but not more than 99 hours, of community service; and
 - (3) May be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.
 - (b) For the second offense and each subsequent offense, a gross misdemeanor and:
 - (1) Shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$1,500;
 - (2) Shall perform not less than 100 hours, but not more than 199 hours, of community service; and
 - (3) May be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 364 days.
 - 8. In addition to any fine, community service and imprisonment imposed upon a person pursuant to subsection 6 or 7, the court:
 - (a) May issue an order suspending the driver's license of the person for a period of not less than 6 months but not more than 2 years and requiring the person to surrender all driver's licenses then held by the person;
 - (b) Within 5 days after issuing an order pursuant to paragraph (a), shall forward to the Department any licenses, together with a copy of the order; and
 - (c) May issue an order impounding, for a period of 30 days, any vehicle that is registered to the person if the vehicle is used in the commission of the offense.
 - 9. Unless a greater penalty is provided pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 484B.550, a person who does any act or neglects any duty imposed by law while driving or in actual physical control of any vehicle on a highway or premises to which the public has access in willful or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property, if the act or neglect of duty proximately causes the death of or substantial bodily harm to another person, is guilty of a category B felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years and by a fine of not less than \$2,000 but not more than \$5,000.





- 10. A person who violates any provision of this section may be subject to any additional penalty set forth in NRS 484B.130 or 484B.135 unless the person is subject to the penalty provided pursuant to subsection 4 of NRS 484B.550.
 - 11. As used in this section:

- (a) "Facilitate" means to plan, schedule or promote, or assist in the planning, scheduling or promotion of, an unauthorized trick driving display or in any other way participate in an unauthorized trick driving display, including, without limitation:
- (1) Using a vehicle to divert, slow, impede or otherwise block traffic with the intent to enable or assist an unauthorized trick driving display; or
- (2) Filming or otherwise recording an unauthorized trick driving display with the intent to promote an unauthorized trick driving display.
- (b) "Organize" means to plan, schedule or promote, or assist in the planning, scheduling or promotion of, an unauthorized speed contest on a [public] highway [,] or premises to which the public has access, regardless of whether a fee is charged for attending the unauthorized speed contest.
- (c) "Trick driving display" means using a vehicle to perform tricks, stunts or other maneuvers on a [public] highway, or premises to which the public has access, upon which traffic has been diverted, slowed, impeded or blocked to enable the performing of such tricks, stunts or maneuvers or having such tricks, stunts or maneuvers filmed or otherwise recorded.
 - **Sec. 2.2.** (Deleted by amendment.)
 - **Sec. 2.4.** (Deleted by amendment.)
 - Sec. 2.6. (Deleted by amendment.)
 - Sec. 2.8. (Deleted by amendment.)
 - **Sec. 2.9.** NRS 706.167 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 706.167 1. Each fully regulated carrier, operator of a tow car and common or contract carrier regulated by the Authority shall:
- (a) Keep uniform and detailed accounts of all business transacted in the manner required by the Authority by regulation and render them to the Authority upon its request.
- (b) Furnish an annual report to the Authority in the form and detail that it prescribes by regulation.
- → The regulations of the Authority may not require an operator of a tow car to keep accounts and report information concerning towing services other than information that is necessary to permit the Authority to enforce the provisions of NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 3, the reports required by this section must be prepared for each calendar year and





submitted not later than May 15 of the year following the year for which the report is submitted.

- 3. A carrier may, with the permission of the Authority, prepare the reports required by this section for a year other than a calendar year that the Authority specifies and submit them not later than a date specified by the Authority in each year.
- 4. If the Authority finds that necessary information is not contained in a report submitted pursuant to this section, it may call for the omitted information at any time.
- 5. The Authority shall require an operator of a tow car to include in his or her annual report the number of times the operator charged a hardship tariff pursuant to NRS 706.4477 during the calendar year.
 - **Sec. 3.** NRS 706.4469 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 706.4469 1. The operator shall allow the owner, or agent of the owner, of a motor vehicle that has been connected to a tow car to obtain the release of the vehicle at the point of origination of the towing if:
 - (a) A request is made to release the vehicle; and
- (b) Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, the owner or agent pays a fee established by the operator for releasing the vehicle.
- 2. If a vehicle that has been connected to a tow car was requested to be towed pursuant to subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2 of NRS 706.4477 and the owner, or agent of the owner, provides proof that the vehicle is registered pursuant to this chapter or chapter 482 of NRS or in any other state:
- (a) The operator shall immediately release the motor vehicle to the owner or agent; and
- (b) The owner or agent is not responsible for paying the fee established by the operator for releasing the vehicle.
- 3. The provisions of this section do not apply if a vehicle that has been connected to a tow car was requested to be towed by a law enforcement officer pursuant to paragraph (c) of subsection 3 of NRS 484B.443.
- 4. As used in this section, "provide proof" includes, without limitation, providing current registration documents in a physical format or in an electronic format as set forth in NRS 482.255 that predate the date on which the vehicle was connected to the tow car.
 - **Sec. 3.1.** NRS 706.4477 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 706.4477 1. If towing is requested by a person other than the owner, or an agent of the owner, of the motor vehicle or a law enforcement officer or other person who is employed to enforce the laws, ordinances and codes of a local government:





- (a) The person requesting the towing must be the owner of the real property from which the vehicle is towed or an authorized agent of the owner of the real property and must sign a specific request for the towing. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, for the purposes of this section, the operator is not an authorized agent of the owner of the real property.
- (b) The area from which the vehicle is to be towed must be appropriately posted in accordance with state or local requirements.
- (c) Notice must be given to the appropriate law enforcement agency pursuant to state and local requirements.
- (d) The operator may be directed to terminate the towing by a law enforcement officer.
- 2. If, pursuant to subsection 1, the owner of the real property or authorized agent of the owner of the real property requests that a vehicle be towed from a residential complex at which the vehicle is located, the owner of the real property or authorized agent of the owner, which may be the tow operator if the tow operator has entered into a contract for that purpose with the owner of the real property:
 - (a) Must:

- (1) Meet the requirements of subsection 1.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the vehicle is being towed pursuant to subparagraph (1) or (2) of paragraph (b), notify the owner or operator of the vehicle of the tow not less than 48 hours before the tow by affixing to the vehicle a sticker which provides the date and time after which the vehicle will be towed. The provisions of this subparagraph do not apply and the vehicle may be immediately towed if it is a vehicle for which a notice was previously affixed:
- (I) For the same or a similar reason within the same residential complex.
- (II) Three or more times during the immediately preceding 6 months within the same residential complex for any reason, regardless of whether the vehicle was subsequently towed.
 - (b) May only have a vehicle towed:
 - (1) Because of a parking violation;
- (2) If the vehicle is not registered pursuant to this chapter or chapter 482 of NRS or in any other state; or
 - (3) If the vehicle is:
- (I) Blocking a fire hydrant, fire lane or parking space designated for the handicapped; or
- (II) Posing an imminent threat of causing a substantial adverse effect on the health, safety or welfare of the residents of the residential complex, which may include, without limitation, if the





vehicle is parked in a space that is clearly marked for a specific resident or the use of a specific unit in the residential complex.

- (c) May not have a vehicle towed solely because the registration of the vehicle is expired. An operator may not charge any fee or cost for towing a vehicle in violation of this paragraph. The towing of a vehicle solely because the registration of the vehicle is expired is a violation of this section, subject to the provisions of subsection 9.
- 3. If towing is requested by a county or city pursuant to NRS 244.3605 or 268.4122, as applicable:
- (a) Notice must be given to the appropriate law enforcement agency pursuant to state and local requirements.
- (b) The operator may be directed to terminate the towing by a law enforcement officer.
- 4. The owner of a motor vehicle towed pursuant to the provisions of subsection 1, 2 or 3:
- (a) Is presumed to have left the motor vehicle on the real property from which the vehicle is towed; and
- (b) Subject to the provisions of subsection 7, is responsible for the cost of removal and storage of the motor vehicle.
- 5. The owner may rebut the presumption in subsection 4 by showing that:
- (a) The owner transferred the owner's interest in the motor vehicle:
- (1) Pursuant to the provisions set forth in NRS 482.399 to 482.420, inclusive; or
- (2) As indicated by a bill of sale for the vehicle that is signed by the owner; or
- (b) The vehicle is stolen, if the owner submits evidence that, before the discovery of the vehicle, the owner filed an affidavit with the Department or a written report with an appropriate law enforcement agency alleging the theft of the vehicle.
- 6. An operator shall not charge any fee or cost for the storage of the motor vehicle until at least [48] 24 hours after the motor vehicle arrives and is registered at the place of storage. If the motor vehicle arrives at the place of storage after the regular business hours of the place of storage, the [48 hour] 24-hour period begins when the regular business hours of the place of storage next begin.
- 7. [The owner of the vehicle] An operator shall [pay] consider charging a hardship tariff for the cost of removal and storage of the motor vehicle if [:
- (a) A vehicle has been towed pursuant to subparagraph (2) of paragraph (b) of subsection 2;





- (b) The] *the* owner of the vehicle, [does not provide proof that the vehicle was registered pursuant to this chapter or chapter 482 of NRS or in any other state at the time the vehicle was towed; and
- (c) The owner,] for reasons outside of his or her control as determined by the regulations adopted pursuant to this section, is incapable of paying the normal rate charged for the removal and storage of the motor vehicle.
- **[→]** 8. The Authority shall adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this section, including, without limitation, establishing a range of hardship tariffs **[a person]** an operator may **[pay]** charge pursuant to this section and setting forth what qualifies as a reason that is outside of the control of the owner.
- [8.] 9. If a motor vehicle is towed in violation of the provisions of this section or an operator charges any fee or cost for the towing of a motor vehicle in violation of this section:
- (a) The operator may be subject to a penalty in accordance with the provisions of NRS 706.756 to 706.781, inclusive; and
- (b) The owner of the vehicle may bring an action against the operator to recover any costs incurred by the person as a result of the violation, including, without limitation, any loss of income.
- 10. An operator shall display conspicuously in his or her place of business a written notice which must contain, in boldface type letters not less than 1 inch in height and 1 inch in width:
- (a) A statement that the operator must consider charging a hardship tariff under certain circumstances; and
- (b) A telephone number for the Authority where a person may report a violation of the provisions of this chapter.
 - 11. As used in this section:
 - (a) "Parking violation" means a violation of any:
 - (1) State or local law or ordinance governing parking; or
- (2) Parking rule promulgated by the owner or manager of the residential complex that applies to vehicles on the property of the residential complex.
- (b) ["Provide proof" includes, without limitation, providing current registration documents in a physical format or in an electronic format as set forth in NRS 482.255 that predate the date on which the vehicle was towed.
- (e)] "Residential complex" means a group of apartments, condominiums or townhomes intended for use as residential units and for which a common parking area is provided, regardless of whether each resident or unit has been assigned a specific parking space in the common parking area.
 - **Sec. 3.3.** (Deleted by amendment.)
 - Sec. 3.5. (Deleted by amendment.)





1 **Sec. 3.7.** (Deleted by amendment.)





