



Representative Michael Dembrow

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House Votes to Crack Down on Predatory Towing *Riley-Dembrow Bill Passes 56-0*

Salem –The House today passed House Bill 2578, which would require towing companies to contact the owner of the property or the tenant before towing a vehicle and would allow the owner of the vehicle, if present, to move the vehicle without fees beyond those for the initial towing hookup. The bill would also require photographic evidence that the vehicle was illegally parked.

“This legislation will protect people from abusive towing practices,” said Rep. Chuck Riley (D-Hillsboro), who carried the bill on the floor. “Under the table dealings between towing operations and landlords have been common, violating consumer rights. It is time to regulate these practices.”

The bill is an attempt to prevent so-called “patrol towing” in which a property owner and tower make an agreement allowing all unauthorized vehicles to be towed without any notification to the vehicle owner in exchange for a commission. Exceptions will exist for those vehicles that constitute immediate safety hazards or are parked in restricted areas.

“No one should return to their vehicle after a few minutes only to find it has been towed without any warning,” said Rep. Michael Dembrow (D-NE Portland/Parkrose/Maywood Park), who sponsored the bill along with Rep. Riley. “Those who continue to tow vehicles under predatory practices will be held accountable.”

The legislation calls for vehicle owners to be contacted in the event of disputed parking. It also requires that restrictions on parking be clearly posted by landlords, especially limitations on guest parking. In areas where the number of parking spots is less than the number of residences, notifications of the consequences of parking in the lot must be posted.

HB 2578, which passed the House today by a margin of 56-0, now moves to the Senate.

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