

Council Bill Number: 118266
Ordinance Number: 124655

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.

Status: Passed
Note: Returned unsigned by the Mayor on 10/16/14
Vote: 9-0
Date filed with the City Clerk: 2014/12/02
Date of Mayor's signature: 2014/11/26 ([about the signature date](#))

Date introduced/referred to committee: 2014/11/17
Committee: Full Council
Sponsor: LICATA
Committee Recommendation: Pass
Date of Committee Recommendation: 2014/11/14
Committee Vote: Pass

Index Terms: PERSONNEL-OFFICE

Fiscal Note: [Fiscal Note to Council Bill No. 118266](#)

Electronic Copy: [PDF scan of Ordinance No. 124655](#)

Reference: [Clerk File 314116](#)

Text:

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

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

* * *

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

Passed by the City Council the _____ day of _____, 2014, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2014.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)