

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Department of Transportation towing authority

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### Overview

This bill proposes towing authority for authorized employees of the Department of Transportation's freeway service patrol (the Freeway Incident Response Safety Team). The authority only applies within the Department of Transportation's eight-county metropolitan district. Under the proposed law, the authorized employees could immediately impound unattended vehicles that constitute an accident or traffic hazard, would be considered a towing authority, and could tow a motor vehicle without a peace officer.

#### Section

- 1 Authority to impound vehicles.** Adds to the list of locations in which unattended vehicles can be impounded. Proposes allowing immediate impounding of those vehicles, within the Department of Transportation's eight-county metropolitan district, that constitute an accident or traffic hazard, as determined by an authorized employee of the Department of Transportation.
- 2 Towing authority.** Changes the definition of "towing authority" to include an authorized employee of the Department of Transportation within the department's eight-county metropolitan district, as well as a private towing company authorized by the department.
- 3 Towing order required.** Allows an authorized employee of the Department of Transportation, within the department's eight-county metropolitan district, to order a tow from a trunk highway after preparing a towing report. The authorized employee is not required to issue a citation. Under current law, a towing authority may not tow a motor vehicle unless a peace officer or parking enforcement officer has prepared a parking citation

**Section**

and a towing report.