

H.768

Introduced by Representatives Rachelson of Burlington and Southworth of  
Walden

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; involuntary towing and storage; consumer protection;  
unclaimed property

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish  
certain consumer protections related to the towing and storage of vehicles and  
to require the net proceeds from the sale of an abandoned vehicle to be  
distributed to the vehicle owner through the State's unclaimed property system.

An act relating to consumer protections related to the towing and storage of  
vehicles

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. chapter 42 is added to read:

CHAPTER 42. TOWING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

§ 4251. SHORT TITLE

This chapter may be cited as the "Vermont Consumer Protection Towing  
Act."

1     § 4252. PURPOSE

2         The purpose of the Vermont Consumer Protection Towing Act is to  
3         establish minimum standards for towing and storage services and to promote  
4         fair and honest practices in the towing industry.

5     § 4253. DEFINITIONS

6         As used in this chapter:

7             (1) “Automobile club” means a legal entity that, in consideration of  
8             dues, assessments, or periodic payments of money, promises its members or  
9             subscribers to assist them in matters relating to motor travel or the operation,  
10            use, or maintenance of a motor vehicle, including auto dealers and insurance  
11            companies, by supplying services, which may include towing service,  
12            emergency road service, and indemnification service.

13            (2) “Dealer” has the same meaning as in subdivision 4(8) of this title.

14            (3) “Drop fee” means a charge offered instead of a standard tow fee that  
15            allows an owner or operator who arrives on the scene prior to a vehicle being  
16            towed to stop a tow that is in process.

17            (4) “Emergency towing” means the towing of a vehicle due to a motor  
18            vehicle crash, mechanical breakdown on a public highway, or other  
19            emergency-related incident necessitating vehicle removal for public safety  
20            with or without the owner’s or operator’s consent.

1           (5) “Government agency towing” means the towing of government-  
2           owned or government-controlled vehicles by the government agency that owns  
3           or controls them.

4           (6) “Heavy-duty vehicle” means a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle  
5           weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more.

6           (7) “Light-duty vehicle” means a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle  
7           weight rating of not more than 10,000 pounds.

8           (8) “Medium-duty vehicle” means a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle  
9           weight rating of at least 10,001 pounds and not more than 26,000 pounds.

10          (9) “Owner” means the person to whom a vehicle is registered or to  
11          whom it is leased, if the terms of the lease require the lessee to maintain and  
12          repair the vehicle. For the purposes of this chapter, a rental vehicle company is  
13          the owner of a vehicle rented pursuant to a rental agreement.

14          (10) “Private property towing” means the towing of a vehicle, without  
15          the owner’s or operator’s consent, from private property where it was illegally  
16          parked, or for which some exigent circumstance necessitated its removal, to a  
17          nearby location.

18          (11) “Rental vehicle company” means any person, including a  
19          franchisee, in the business of renting vehicles to the public.

1           (12) “Seizure towing” means the taking of a vehicle for law enforcement  
2           purposes, such as the maintenance of the chain of custody of evidence,  
3           forfeiture of assets, or unpaid parking tickets.

4           (13) “Storage services” means storing a towed vehicle at a towing-  
5           storage lot.

6           (14) “Tow truck” means a motor vehicle equipped to tow or pick up  
7           vehicles, including damaged or disabled vehicles.

8           (15) “Towing company” means any person, partnership, company, firm,  
9           or aggregation of individuals that exists to provide towing or storage services.  
10          A towing company does not include an automobile club, dealer, or insurance  
11          company.

12          (16) “Towing or storage services” means towing services or storage  
13          services, or both.

14          (17) “Towing services” means towing or otherwise moving vehicles by  
15          means of a tow truck.

16          (18) “Towing-storage lot” means a property used to store vehicles that  
17          have been towed.

18          § 4254. APPLICABILITY; RULEMAKING; COMPLAINTS

19           (a) Applicability.

20           (1) This chapter shall apply to any person engaging in, or offering to  
21           engage in, the business of providing towing or storage services in Vermont.

1 This chapter shall not apply to vehicles towed into Vermont or towed through  
2 Vermont, provided that the tow originates in another jurisdiction.

3 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, this chapter shall  
4 not apply to towing and storage services by an automobile club, dealer, or  
5 insurance company or the towing of an abandoned motor vehicle as defined in  
6 section 2151 of this title.

7 (b) Regulatory authority. This chapter confers exclusive regulatory  
8 jurisdiction over towing companies and the provision of towing and storage  
9 services to the Department of Motor Vehicles.

10 (c) Rulemaking. The Department shall adopt rules pursuant to 3 V.S.A.  
11 chapter 25 for the administration of this chapter, including the assessment of  
12 administrative penalties in addition to those penalties allowed under section  
13 4265 of this chapter.

14 (d) Complaints. The Department shall establish a complaint mechanism  
15 for consumers and insurers.

16 § 4255. EMERGENCY TOWING

17 (a) Prohibitions. It is a misdemeanor for a towing company to stop or  
18 cause an individual to stop at the scene of a crash or near a disabled vehicle for  
19 the purpose of soliciting an engagement for emergency towing services, either  
20 directly or indirectly, or, unless requested to perform the services by a law  
21 enforcement officer or public agency pursuant to that agency's procedures or

1 unless summoned to the scene or requested to stop by the owner or operator of  
2 a disabled vehicle, to provide towing or emergency towing services, to move a  
3 vehicle from a highway when there is an injury as the result of a crash, or to  
4 accrue charges for services provided under those circumstances.

5 (b) Selection of towing company.

6 (1) The owner or operator of the vehicle being towed shall summon to  
7 the scene the towing company of the owner's or operator's choice in  
8 consultation with law enforcement or authorized municipal personnel and  
9 designate the location where the vehicle is to be towed.

10 (2) The provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection shall not apply  
11 when the owner or operator is incapacitated or otherwise unable to summon a  
12 tow company or defers to law enforcement or authorized municipal personnel.

13 (3) The authority provided to the owner or operator in subdivision (1) of  
14 this subsection may be superseded by the law enforcement officer or  
15 authorized municipal personnel if the towing company of choice cannot  
16 respond to the scene in a timely fashion and the vehicle is a hazard, impedes  
17 the flow of traffic, or may not legally remain in its location in the opinion of  
18 the law enforcement officer or authorized municipal personnel.

19 (c) Record of caller.

20 (1) If a towing company is summoned for an emergency tow by the  
21 owner or operator of a disabled vehicle, the towing company shall record the

1 first name, last name, and telephone number of the individual who summoned  
2 it to the scene and the make, model, year, color, vehicle identification number  
3 (VIN), and license plate number of the towed vehicle.

4 (2) If a towing company is summoned for an emergency tow by a law  
5 enforcement officer or designee of a public safety agency with jurisdiction, the  
6 towing company shall record the identity of the law enforcement officer or  
7 designee of a public safety agency with jurisdiction and the log number, call  
8 number, incident number, or dispatch number assigned to the incident as  
9 applicable.

10 (d) Visual documentation. Prior to towing a vehicle under this section, a  
11 towing company shall take photographs, video, or other visual documentation  
12 to evidence the location of the vehicle and any damages.

13 (e) Record retention and production.

14 (1) The towing company shall maintain a record of the information  
15 described in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and shall retain that  
16 information for three years.

17 (2) The towing company shall make the records required to be  
18 maintained under subdivision (1) of this subsection available within 48 hours  
19 after receipt of a written request from law enforcement or the Department of  
20 Motor Vehicles.

1        (f) Storage. The towing company shall properly secure all towed vehicles  
2        and make all reasonable efforts to prevent further damage, weather damage, or  
3        theft to all towed vehicles, including the vehicles' cargo and contents.

4        § 4256. PRIVATE PROPERTY TOWING REQUIREMENTS

5        (a) Establishment of a private tow-away zone. The owner of private  
6        property may establish a private tow-away zone by posting a sign that is at  
7        least 18 inches by 24 inches in size and includes a statement that the property  
8        is a tow-away zone, a description of persons authorized to park on the  
9        property, and the address and telephone number for where towed vehicles are  
10       stored.

11       (b) Prohibition and record of caller. A towing company shall not tow a  
12       vehicle under this section unless it receives a request for a tow. The towing  
13       company shall record the date, time, and name of the requester.

14       (c) Visual documentation. Prior to towing a vehicle under this section, a  
15       towing company shall take photographs, video, or other visual documentation  
16       to evidence that the vehicle is clearly parked on private property in violation of  
17       a private tow-away zone. The towing company shall record the time and date  
18       of the photographs, video, or other visual documentation.



1       (d) Record retention and production.

2           (1) The towing company shall maintain a record of the information  
3       described in subsections (b) and (c) of this section and shall retain that  
4       information for three years.

5           (2) The towing company shall make the records required to be  
6       maintained under subdivision (1) of this subsection available within 48 hours  
7       after receipt of a written request from law enforcement or the Department of  
8       Motor Vehicles.

9       (e) Location and storage.

10          (1) A towing company shall ensure that a vehicle towed under this  
11       section is taken to a location that is within 25 miles of the location of the  
12       private tow-away zone.

13          (2) The towing company shall properly secure all towed vehicles and  
14       make all reasonable efforts to prevent further damage, weather damage, or  
15       theft to all towed vehicles, including the vehicles' cargo and contents.

16          (f) Release of vehicle prior to towing. If the owner or operator of a vehicle  
17       is parked in violation of a private tow-away zone and arrives while the vehicle  
18       is being removed, the towing company shall give the vehicle owner or operator  
19       oral or written notification that the vehicle owner or operator may pay a drop  
20       fee for the release of the vehicle. Upon payment of that fee, the towing  
21       company shall release the vehicle and give the vehicle owner or operator a

1 receipt showing both the full amount normally assessed for towing the vehicle  
2 and the actual amount received for the drop fee.

3 (g) Notice. The towing company shall provide notice of the tow to law  
4 enforcement within two hours after removing the vehicle from the private tow-  
5 away zone.

6 § 4257. SEIZURE TOWING

7 (a) Location and storage.

8 (1) A towing company shall ensure that a vehicle towed under this  
9 section is taken to a location that is within 25 miles of the location where the  
10 vehicle is towed from.

11 (2) The towing company shall properly secure all towed vehicles and  
12 make all reasonable efforts to prevent further damage, weather damage, or  
13 theft to all towed vehicles, including the vehicles' cargo and contents.

14 (b) Release of vehicle prior to towing. If the owner or operator of a vehicle  
15 that is being towed because of unpaid parking tickets arrives while the vehicle  
16 is being towed, the towing company shall give the vehicle owner or operator  
17 oral or written notification that the vehicle owner or operator may pay a drop  
18 fee for the release of the vehicle. Upon payment of that fee, the towing  
19 company shall release the vehicle and give the vehicle owner or operator a  
20 receipt showing both the full amount normally assessed for towing the vehicle  
21 and the actual amount received for the drop fee.

1     § 4258. ESTIMATE REQUIREMENTS

2         (a) Estimate required. If the owner or operator of a vehicle is present at the  
3         time and location of a tow, the towing company shall furnish the owner or  
4         operator of the vehicle with a written itemized estimate of all charges and  
5         services to be performed.

6         (b) Estimate contents. The estimate required under subsection (a) of this  
7         section shall include all of the following:

8             (1) the name, address, telephone number, and motor carrier permit  
9             number of the towing company;

10            (2) the license plate number of the tow truck performing the tow; and

11            (3) an itemized description and cost for all services, including charges  
12            for labor, special equipment, mileage from dispatch to return, and storage fees  
13            expressed as a daily rate.

14         (c) Signature required.

15            (1) The towing company shall obtain the vehicle owner's or operator's  
16            written or electronic signature on the itemized estimate and shall furnish a  
17            copy to the individual who signs the estimate.

18            (2) The requirements in subdivision (1) of this subsection may be  
19            completed after the vehicle is attached and removed to the nearest safe  
20            shoulder or highway if done at the request of law enforcement or a public

1 agency, provided the estimate is furnished prior to the removal of the vehicle  
2 from the nearest safe shoulder or highway.

3 (d) Record retention and production.

4 (1) The towing company shall maintain the records required under  
5 subsection (a) of this section and shall retain that information for three years.

6 (2) The towing company shall make the records required to be  
7 maintained under subdivision (1) of this subsection available within 48 hours  
8 after receipt of a written request from law enforcement or the Department of  
9 Motor Vehicles.

10 § 4259. INVOICE REQUIREMENTS

11 (a) Invoice required. All services rendered by a towing company,  
12 including any warranty or zero-cost services, shall be recorded on an invoice.  
13 Each additional service must be set forth individually as a single line item with  
14 an explanation and the exact charge for the service.

15 (b) Invoice contents. Each itemized invoice for towing costs shall contain  
16 the following:

17 (1) the location from which the vehicle was towed;

18 (2) the storage location of the vehicle;

19 (3) the name, address, and telephone number of the towing company;

1           (4) a description of the vehicle, including the make, model, year, color,  
2           vehicle identification number (VIN), and license plate number of the towed  
3           vehicle;

4           (5) the charge for the tow; and

5           (6) the daily storage charge and the number of days the vehicle was  
6           stored.

7           (c) Record retention and production.

8           (1) The towing company shall maintain the records required under  
9           subsection (a) of this section and shall retain that information for three years.

10          (2) The towing company shall make the records required to be  
11          maintained under subdivision (1) of this subsection available within 48 hours  
12          after receipt of a written request from law enforcement or the Department of  
13          Motor Vehicles.

14          § 4260. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

15          (a) Notice required. Within 24 hours after the commencement of towing,  
16          the towing company must commence a search of the records of the Department  
17          of Motor Vehicles to ascertain the identity of the owner and any lienholder of  
18          the towed vehicle. Written notice shall be given directly to the owner by  
19          registered mail within five business days after the commencement of towing,  
20          and no storage charges beyond the initial 24-hour charge shall accrue until the  
21          notice requirement has been met.

1        (b) Notice contents. Notice to the owner or insurer shall contain the  
2        following:

3                (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the towing company;

4                (2) the date and time the vehicle was towed;

5                (3) the location from which the vehicle was towed;

6                (4) the address where the vehicle is or will be stored and the address and  
7        telephone number where payment and business transactions take place if either  
8        is different from the address and telephone number of the towing company;

9                (5) the name of the tow truck operator; and

10               (6) a description of the vehicle, including the make, model, year, color,  
11        vehicle identification number (VIN), and license plate number of the towed  
12        vehicle.

13        § 4261. MAXIMUM CHARGES

14               (a) A towing company shall not charge more than the following for towing  
15        a motor vehicle:

16               (1) \$125.00 for a light-duty vehicle;

17               (2) \$275.00 for a medium-duty vehicle; and

18               (3) \$400.00 per hour for towing a heavy-duty vehicle.

19               (b) The drop fee charged by a towing company shall not exceed the  
20        following amounts:

1           (1) \$30.00 for a light-duty vehicle;

2           (2) \$65.00 for a medium-duty vehicle; and

3           (3) \$150.00 for a heavy-duty vehicle.

4           (c) A towing company shall not charge storage-related fees in excess of the  
5 following:

6           (1) for a light-duty vehicle, \$20.00 per day of storage for any day that  
7 the towing company is operating under its standard hours of operation;

8           (2) for a medium-duty vehicle, \$30.00 per day of storage for any day  
9 that the towing company is operating under its standard hours of operation;

10          (3) for a heavy-duty vehicle, \$100.00 per day of storage for any day that  
11 the towing company is operating under its standard hours of operation; and

12          (4) for any towed motor vehicle, \$35.00 for access to the vehicle outside  
13 the towing company's standard hours of operation for the recovery of personal  
14 items.

15          (d) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c) of this section, charges for  
16 towing an abandoned vehicle from public property shall be in accordance with  
17 section 2158 of this title, and fees for towing or storing a vehicle pursuant to  
18 municipal ordinance shall be as established by the municipality in accordance  
19 with section 1753 of this title.

20          (e) No charge shall be made in excess of the estimated price without the  
21 prior consent of the owner or operator of the vehicle.

1     § 4262. HOURS OF OPERATION

2         A towing-storage lot shall have, at a minimum, the following standard hours  
3     of operation: 7:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m. on Monday–Friday, exclusive of federal and  
4     State holidays, and on at least one weekend day.

5     § 4263. RELEASE OF VEHICLE; METHODS OF PAYMENT

6         (a) A towing company shall release a towed vehicle to the owner or the  
7     insurance company representative of the owner upon receipt of payment.

8         (b) A towing company shall only release a towed vehicle to the insurance  
9     company representative if:

10         (1) the owner's insurance company representative presents proof that the  
11     towed vehicle is insured with the company; or

12         (2) the owner of the towed vehicle approves release of the towed vehicle  
13     to the insurance company representative.

14         (c) The owner of the towed vehicle or insurance company representative of  
15     the owner of the towed vehicle shall have the right to inspect the vehicle before  
16     accepting its return.

17         (d) A towing company shall accept, at a minimum, cash, an insurance  
18     check, a credit card, a debit card, a certified check, or a money order.

19     § 4264. PROHIBITED ACTS

20         (a) It shall be unlawful for a towing company or an individual acting on  
21     behalf of a towing company to:



1           (1) falsely represent, either expressly or by implication, that the towing  
2           company represents or is approved by any private organization that provides  
3           emergency road service for disabled motor vehicles;

4           (2) require an owner or operator of a motor vehicle involved in a crash  
5           or breakdown to preauthorize one or more of the following: more than 24  
6           hours of storage, teardown, or repair work as a condition to providing towing  
7           services for the vehicle;

8           (3) charge more than one towing fee when the owner or operator of a  
9           disabled vehicle requests transport of the vehicle to a repair facility owned or  
10          operated by the towing company;

11          (4) charge more than the maximum fees as allowed under section 4261  
12          of this chapter; or

13          (5) violate any other provision of this chapter.

14          (b) Towing companies shall not tow disabled vehicles to a repair facility  
15          unless the owner or operator of the disabled vehicle gives written consent  
16          before removal of the disabled vehicle.

17          (c) No towing company shall refuse to release a vehicle to the owner or the  
18          owner's insurer upon tender of full payment of an itemized invoice for all  
19          lawful charges made in connection with the towing and storage of a vehicle.

20          (d) No towing company shall refuse, during the towing company's standard  
21          hours of operation, including prior to payment of fees and release of a towed

1 vehicle, the right of physical inspection of the towed vehicle by the owner or  
2 the owner's insurer or the recovery of personal items left in the vehicle.

3 (e) No towing company shall charge storage fees for any day on which  
4 release of the towed vehicle or access to the towed vehicle by the owner or  
5 insurer is not permitted by the towing company.

6 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 4265 is added to read:

7 § 4265. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

8 The Department of Motor Vehicles shall investigate any suspected  
9 violations of this chapter and any complaints of alleged violations of this  
10 chapter that are filed with the Department and shall take all proper and  
11 necessary remedial action to correct any violations.

12 Sec. 3. ENFORCEMENT OF VERMONT CONSUMER PROTECTION  
13 TOWING ACT; REPORT

14 (a) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, in consultation with the Attorney  
15 General, shall develop a proposed framework for enforcement of the Vermont  
16 Consumer Protection Towing Act, 23 V.S.A. chapter 42.

17 (b) The proposed framework shall:  
18 (1) identify any investigatory authority necessary to permit the  
19 Department of Motor Vehicles to determine whether a violation of the Act has  
20 occurred;

1           (2) provide proposed monetary penalty amounts and a process for  
2           collecting any penalties imposed; and

3           (3) identify any additional authority that may be necessary to enforce the  
4           provisions of the Act.

5           (b) The Commissioner shall, on or before December 15, 2026, submit a  
6           written report to the House and Senate Committees on Judiciary and on  
7           Transportation that outlines the proposed framework and identifies any  
8           legislative action necessary to implement it.

9           Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 2155 is amended to read:

10          § 2155. FEES AND CHARGES

11           (a) Towing fees. For towing an abandoned motor vehicle from private  
12           property, a towing service may charge a reasonable fee to be paid by the  
13           vehicle owner or the landowner of the private property.

14           (b) Storage charges. In addition to any towing fee, an owner or lienholder  
15           reclaiming an abandoned motor vehicle may be charged and shall pay a fee for  
16           the costs of storage of the vehicle, except that no fee ~~may~~ shall be charged for  
17           storage for any period preceding the date upon which the form for abandoned  
18           motor vehicle certification is sent to the Department.

19           (c) Maximum fees and charges. The fees and other amounts charged  
20           pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section shall not exceed the  
21           applicable amounts permitted pursuant to section 4261 of this title.

1 Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 2156 is amended to read:

2 § 2156. DISPOSAL OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES

3 (a) ~~If~~ Except as otherwise provided pursuant to subsection (c) of this  
4 section, if the Commissioner issues the certificate of abandoned motor vehicle,  
5 title to the motor vehicle shall pass to the holder of the certificate of abandoned  
6 motor vehicle, free from all claims of the owner or prior holder of the motor  
7 vehicle, and of all persons claiming through or under the owner or prior holder.  
8 The Commissioner shall issue an appropriate title or salvage title of the motor  
9 vehicle at no charge.

10 \* \* \*

11 (c)(1) A person who has taken title to a motor vehicle pursuant to the  
12 provisions of this section shall only be entitled to the value of the motor  
13 vehicle up to the amount of any charges for towing and storage that are due at  
14 the time the certificate of abandoned motor vehicle is issued. Any value in  
15 excess of the amount due shall be reported to and delivered into the custody of  
16 the State Treasurer pursuant to the provisions of 27 V.S.A. chapter 18.

17 (2) The value in excess of the amount due shall be determined as  
18 follows:

19 (A) If the person who has taken title to the motor vehicle pursuant to  
20 this section sells the vehicle within 90 days after the certificate of abandoned  
21 motor vehicle is issued, the amount due shall be subtracted from the amount

1 for which the vehicle is sold, and any remaining amount shall be reported to  
2 and delivered into the custody of the State Treasurer.

3 (B) If the person who has taken title to the motor vehicle pursuant to  
4 this section does not sell the vehicle within 90 days after the certificate of  
5 abandoned motor vehicle is issued, the amount due shall be subtracted from the  
6 approximate value of the motor vehicle pursuant to J.D. Power Values or any  
7 comparable publication, and any remaining amount shall be reported to and  
8 delivered into the custody of the State Treasurer.

9 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 2158 is amended to read:

10 § 2158. FEES FOR TOWING; PUBLIC PROPERTY; FUNDING

11 (a) A towing service may charge a fee of up to ~~\$125.00~~ for towing an  
12 abandoned motor vehicle from public property under the provisions of sections  
13 2151–2157 of this subchapter. This fee shall be paid to the towing service  
14 upon the issuance by the Department of Motor Vehicles of a certificate of  
15 abandoned motor ~~vehicles~~ vehicle under section 2156 of this title. The  
16 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall notify the Commissioner of Finance  
17 and Management who shall issue payment to the towing service for vehicles  
18 removed from public property.

19 (b) The fee for towing charged pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
20 shall not exceed the following:

- 1           (1) \$125.00 for a light-duty vehicle;  
2           (2) \$275.00 for a medium-duty vehicle; and  
3           (3) \$400.00 per hour for towing a heavy-duty vehicle.

4           (c) As used in this section:

5           (1) “Heavy-duty vehicle” means a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle  
6           weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more.

7           (2) “Light-duty vehicle” means a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle  
8           weight rating of not more than 10,000 pounds.

9           (3) “Medium-duty vehicle” means a motor vehicle with a gross vehicle  
10          weight rating of at least 10,001 pounds and not more than 26,000 pounds.

11       Sec. 7. RULEMAKING

12          (a) Unless extended by the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules  
13          pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 843(c), the Department of Motor Vehicles shall adopt  
14          rules required under 23 V.S.A. § 4254(c), as added by Sec. 1 of this act, on or  
15          before June 1, 2027, to be effective July 1, 2027.

16          (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt rules as necessary to  
17          implement the provisions of Secs. 4 and 5 of this act.

18       Sec. 8. 27 V.S.A. § 1474 is added to read:

19       § 1474. WHEN A MOTOR VEHICLE IS PRESUMED ABANDONED

20          Subject to section 1469 of this title, a motor vehicle is presumed to be  
21          abandoned when the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles issues a certificate of

1 abandoned motor vehicle for that vehicle pursuant to the provisions of 23

2 V.S.A. chapter 21, subchapter 7.

3 Sec. 9. EFFECTIVE DATES

4 (a) Sec. 2 (enforcement and penalties) shall take effect on January 1, 2028.

5 (b) This section and the remaining sections of this act shall take effect on

6 July 1, 2026.