

H. 346**Motor vehicles; involuntary towing and storage; abandoned vehicles; stolen vehicles; consumer protection**

This bill proposes to establish maximum reasonable rates for the towing and storage of abandoned motor vehicles, relieve crime victims from towing and storage charges related to a vehicle that was towed after being stolen, and establish a working group to examine funding mechanisms to reimburse towing services for costs incurred in towing and storing stolen vehicles.

Problem the bill addresses:

This problem is not just happening in Vermont.

[Stolen car victim gets stuck with huge towing bill | wusa9.com](#) [Colorado State](#)

[How one Robstown towing company is overcharging car theft victims \(kristv.com\)](#)

[Who Pays for Damage Caused by a Stolen Car? - The Cartwright Law Firm, Inc.](#)

Colorado:**How other places have addressed the issue:****States:****Colorado 2023:** [Colorado Senate Bill 23-257](#)

The Colorado State Patrol (CSP) provides financial aid to victims of motor vehicle theft using new grant funds allocated through Colorado legislation. According to CSP, they received funding through the Colorado Auto Theft Prevention Authority (CATPA) and the Beat Auto Theft Through Law Enforcement (BATTLE) Motor Vehicle Theft Program as specified under a law that went into effect June 2023.

- The fund consists of gifts, grants, and donations and any money credited to the fund from the collection of fees paid by certain automobile insurers to support the automobile theft prevention authority.
- The act specifies that the fund also consists of any money that the general assembly may appropriate or transfer to the fund.

- The act requires the state treasurer to transfer money from the general fund to the fund to be used for the following purposes:
 - Implementing a statewide program to increase awareness of automobile theft.
 - **Implementing programs to support victims of automobile theft.**
 - Additional overtime for law enforcement agencies.
 - Implementing a dedicated automobile theft prosecution program.
 - Enhancing and upgrading the automobile theft tracking and reporting system.
 - Any other direct or indirect costs associated with the implementation of the automobile theft prevention grant program.
 - [Colorado State Patrol Continues Program to Support Victims of Motor Vehicle Theft | Colorado State Patrol](#)
 - [Colorado victim of auto theft? The state can help pay for damages \(kdvr.com\)](#)

- **Illinois 2024**
 - This law passed in 2024 and went into effect in 2025:**
 - If a vehicle is stolen and later towed, storage fees cannot be charged if the vehicle is recovered within seven days.
 - If an individual presents a valid police report of their vehicle being stolen to the towing company, they will not be charged government fines, fees, and penalties.
 - If a private towing company is involved – and if they know the name and address of the owner at the time of towing – they will now be required to provide written notice to the vehicle owner within two days. No storage fees can be charged if the owner recovers their vehicle within seven days.
 - Additionally, when authorizing a vehicle towing, law enforcement will be required to provide the registered owner's name and mailing address to the towing company.
 - The new law further explicitly prevents medical devices stored within vehicles, such as hearing instruments, from being held as collateral for fee payment. Existing law had already prevented wallets, purses, eyeglasses, food, and similar items from being held, and Gill's measure now adds personal medical and health care devices, social security cards, passbooks, and higher education textbooks and study materials.

- [New Illinois law regulates how towing companies handle stolen vehicles | WCIA.com](#)
- » [Gill Measure to Help Stolen Vehicle Crime Victims Signed into Law](#)

Cities:

- **New Orleans:**
 - [Mayors Office - News - Articles - April 2022 - CITY OF NEW ORLEANS LAUNCHES ONLINE PORTAL FOR TOWING REIMBURSEMENTS - City of New Orleans](#)
 - [Services - Report a Problem - File a Complaint - File for Stolen Vehicle Towing Reimbursement - City of New Orleans](#)
- **Memphis:**
 - [Patrol announces grant funding to help victims of motor vehicle theft | KRDO Memphians having to pay to get stolen cars back | localmemphis.com](#)