

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 *An Act to amend and reenact § 46.2-1232 of the Code of Virginia, relating to local regulation of*
3 *removal and immobilization of trespassing vehicles.*

4 [S 997]

5 Approved

6 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**7 **1. That § 46.2-1232 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

8 § 46.2-1232. Localities may regulate removal or immobilization of trespassing vehicles.

9 A. The governing body of any county, city, or town may by ordinance regulate the removal of
10 trespassing vehicles from property by or at the direction of the owner, operator, lessee, or authorized
11 agent in charge of the property. In the event that a vehicle is towed from one locality and stored in or
12 released from a location in another locality, the local ordinance, if any, of the locality from which the
13 vehicle was towed shall apply.

14 B. No local ordinance adopted under authority of this section shall require that any towing and
15 recovery business also operate as or provide services as a vehicle repair facility or body shop, filling
16 station, or any business other than a towing and recovery business.

17 C. Any such local ordinance may also require towing and recovery operators to (i) obtain and retain
18 photographs or other documentary evidence substantiating the reason for the removal; (ii) post signs at
19 their main place of business and at any other location where towed vehicles may be reclaimed
20 conspicuously indicating (a) the maximum charges allowed by local ordinance, if any, for all their fees
21 for towing, recovery, and storage services and (b) the name and business telephone number of the local
22 official, if any, responsible for handling consumer complaints; ~~and~~ (iii) *obtain at the time the vehicle is*
23 *towed, verbal approval of an agent designated in the local ordinance who is available at all times; and*
24 *(iv) obtain, at the time the vehicle is towed, if such towing is performed during the normal business*
25 *hours of the owner of the property from which the vehicle is being towed, the written authorization of*
26 *the owner of the property from which the vehicle is towed, or his agent. Such written authorization, if*
27 *required, shall be in addition to any written contract between the towing and recovery operator and the*
28 *owner of the property or his agent. For the purposes of this subsection, "agent" shall not include any*
29 *person who either (a) is related by blood or marriage to the towing and recovery operator or (b) has a*
30 *financial interest in the towing and recovery operator's business.*