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HOUSE BILL NO. 2145

Offered January 14, 2015

Prefiled January 14, 2015

A *BILL to amend and reenact § 46.2-644.01 of the Code of Virginia, relating to liens of garage keepers for vehicle towing, storage, etc.*

Patron—Yancey

Referred to Committee on Transportation

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**1. That § 46.2-644.01 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:****§ 46.2-644.01. Lien of keeper of garage.**

A. Every keeper of a garage, and every person keeping any vehicles shall have a lien upon such vehicles for the amount which may be due him for the towing, storage, recovery, and care thereof, until such amount is paid.

B. In the case of any vehicle subject to a chattel mortgage, security agreement, deed of trust, or other instrument securing money, the keeper of the garage shall have a lien thereon for his reasonable charges for storage under this section not to exceed \$500 and *not to exceed \$800* for alteration and repair under § 46.2-644.02 ~~not to exceed \$800~~. However, in the case of a storage lien, to obtain the priority for an amount in excess of \$300 \$500, the person asserting the lien shall make a reasonable attempt to notify any secured party of record at the Department of Motor Vehicles by telephonic means and shall give written notice by certified mail, return receipt requested, to any secured party of record at the Department of Motor Vehicles within seven business days of taking possession of the vehicle. If the secured party does not, within ~~seven~~ 15 business days of receipt of the notice, take ~~or refuse~~ redelivery to it or its designee, the lienor shall be *responsible for all storage and towing fees and* entitled to priority for the full amount of storage charges; ~~not to exceed \$500~~. Notwithstanding a redelivery, the vehicle shall be subject to subsection D.

C. In addition, any person furnishing services involving the towing and recovery of a vehicle, shall have a lien for all normal costs incident thereto, if the person asserting the lien gives written notice within seven *business* days of receipt of the vehicle by certified mail, return receipt requested, to all secured parties of record at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

D. In addition, any keeper shall be entitled to a lien against any proceeds remaining after the satisfaction of all prior security interests or liens, and may retain possession of such property until such charges are paid.

E. Any lien created under this section shall not extend to any personal property which is not attached to or considered to be necessary for the proper operation of any motor vehicle, and it shall be the duty of any keeper of such personal property to return it to the owner if the owner claims the items prior to auction.

F. For the purposes of this section, in the case of a truck or combination of vehicles, the owner or in the case of a rented or leased vehicle, the lessee of the truck or tractor truck shall be liable for the costs of the towing, recovery, and storage of the cargo and of any trailer or semitrailer in the combination. Nothing in this subsection, however, shall bar the owner of the truck or tractor truck from subsequently seeking to recover from the owner of any trailer, semitrailer, or cargo all or any portion of these towing, recovery, and storage costs.

INTRODUCED

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