



State Board of Towing September 9, 2025 – Legislative Concepts

This document does not represent formal Board decisions or policy; the document facilitates board discussion of legislative concepts.

ORS 98.850 Legislative findings and declaration

(2) The Legislative Assembly declares that: (a) Statutes that assist members of the public in avoiding involuntary loss of use of motor vehicles and in expediting recovery of motor vehicles and the personal property in the motor vehicles promote the safety and welfare of members of the public.

Attached are a number of legislative concepts identified by the Board.

These legislative concepts may be used as:

1. Potential subjects and topics to be considered as part of an interim-session work group.
2. Legislative concept topics that may be developed as collaborative partnership opportunities for clarity in compliance enforcement, resolve possible gray areas in Oregon's laws, or address the needs for public protection and industry transparency.
3. Identification of administrative rules to clarify the expectations, requirements, or intent of the statutes.

The attached list are initial, draft, proposed concepts only.

- The first seven were identified by the Board and submitted to DMV.
- The second list were submitted by members of the public and industry after the August 2025 meeting.

A public process, involving public comment opportunities and public hearings, is required prior to adoption or modification of laws or rules.

To submit a public request or suggestion:
Complete and submit the attached

<p style="text-align: center;">Oregon State Board of Towing 2027 Draft Legislative Concepts</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Each legislative concept will: consider the fiscal impact to the industry, consumers, and partners, and will include estimated cost and identify funding sources.</i></p>	
1. ORS Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ORS related to towing and business operations. Combine under one ORS Chapter. Address inconsistencies, gray areas, and repetitive laws and requirements.
2. HB3186	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition of relationship between DMV and the Board to comply with statutes. Clarification of board member criteria: insurance representative and Chief of Police/County Sheriff
3. Business License	Professional business license issued to the tow company similar to other trade licensing in Oregon, replacing the current system of “tow business certificate” issued to vehicles for regulation of the industry.
4. Regulation of Repo Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allows regulation of the repossession business by a state agency, ensures compliance enforcement of federal laws and regulations; Would regulate only the tower and towing practices, not the lenders or repossession actions.
5. Pre-tow Notification to law enforcement	<p>Make the law enforcement notification required for all non-consensual tows (excluding law enforcement or other government agency impounds)</p> <p>ORS 98.812 Towing of Unlawfully Parked vehicle <i>(2) A tower is entitled to a lien on a towed vehicle and its contents for the tower's just and reasonable charges and may retain possession of the towed vehicle and its contents until the just and reasonable charges for the towage, care and storage, subject to subsection (3) of this section, of the towed vehicle have been paid if the tower notifies the local law enforcement agency of the location of the towed vehicle within one hour after the towed vehicle is placed in storage.</i></p>
6. Receipt for payment.	<p>Require a physical receipt for any payment made to a tower, at the time of the payment, showing the amount due, amount paid, and the exact change due.</p> <p>A tower cannot increase the amount due to release the vehicle to avoid the exact change requirement.</p>

	<p>ORS 98.854 A tower shall not: <i>(12) Accept cash as a method of payment for towing services unless the tower provides exact change not later than the end of the business day following receipt of payment.</i></p>
7. Itemized statement/invoice of fees for towing services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require an itemized statement of the invoiced charges and fees prior to payment for release of the vehicle. A tower cannot delay release of the vehicle or charge additional fees to avoid the itemized statement requirement.
8. Recovery of Costs and Fees	Allow the Board to be reimbursed costs and fees in successful disciplinary actions.
9. Roadside Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow oversight and compliance enforcement of individuals providing roadside assistance services through apps, insurance, and independently. Ensure all individuals offering roadside assistance have appropriate training, knowledge, and minimum qualifications.

Public Suggestions	
1. Vehicle Owner Release Requirement:	<p>When released from the tow lot, should the vehicle owner be required to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proof of ownership of the vehicle (already a requirement) b. A valid driver's license (or bring a person who has a valid driver's license)? c. Proof of insurance on the vehicle?
<p>2. Maximum Rates</p> <p><i>*Is "unlocking a motor vehicle" a towing service or a roadside assistance service?</i></p> <p><i>Locksmiths are regulated under CCB.</i></p> <p><i>**How will this requirement be funded? What does this look like?</i></p> <p><i>Law enforcement/ government agency impounds have a</i></p>	<p>Change "may" to will in ORS 98.856:</p> <p>ORS 98.856 Maximum rates for towing <i>(1) Each city or county may will establish the maximum rates that a tower may charge for towing a motor vehicle, and for all related services for towing a motor vehicle, in response to a request for towing of a vehicle parked within the city or county that is made by a person other than the owner or operator of the motor vehicle. The rates for related services include charges for hookup, storage, gas mileage, pictures, unlocking the motor vehicle* and any other services reasonably related to towing as determined by the city or county. Rates established by a city or county under this subsection apply in all portions of the city or county.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Each city or county that establishes maximum rates under this section shall also establish a process by which the city or county will receive and respond to complaints relating to violations of this section. **</i></p>

<i>complaint process and hearing requirement.</i>	
3. “Emergency possessions”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of “emergency possessions” list to consider: Legal documents, electronics, work-related items, keys, etc. • Allow passengers or other third-parties to remove emergency Personal possessions from the vehicle with identification. • What is the requirement when the identification necessary to prove ownership is in the vehicle? Title, registration, ID, etc. <p>ORS 98.852 Definitions for ORS 98.853 to 98.862 <i>(6) “Personal property of an emergency nature” includes, but is not limited to, prescription medication, eyeglasses, hearing aids, clothing, identification, a wallet, a purse, a credit card, a checkbook, cash and child safety car and booster seats.</i></p> <p>ORS 98.858 Right of owner or person in lawful possession of vehicle to redeem or inspect vehicle <i>(c) Obtain all personal property of an emergency nature in the motor vehicle and the motor vehicle’s registration plates within the time allowed under paragraph (a) of this subsection.</i></p>

Other Suggestions	



Oregon State Board of Towing Public Suggestion Form Laws, Rules and Regulations

This form is an opportunity for the public, partners, or industry members to formally submit ideas and suggestions for changes or additions to existing laws, rules or regulations to the Oregon State Board of Towing. This form is a public document.

Do not use this form to submit public comments or testimony on proposed rules, policies, or legislative concepts.

To submit a concept or suggestion for laws, administrative rules, or other regulations:

- Complete this form, replacing all [bracketed labels] with your information
- Send the form as an email attachment to info@towboard.oregon.gov
- One Public Suggestion Form per topic
- To be considered, the completed form must be
 - Legible
 - Statements and answers are clear and concise
 - Suggestion is relevant to the work of the Oregon State Board of Towing
 - Form is complete and containing all required and relevant information
- Attachments supporting and substantiating statements are recommended.

Contact Information

During the review of this form, the Board, its staff, or a partner may need to contact you for more information. The Board will prepare a summary report that lists the concepts and ideas received, posted on the Board's website. The Board may provide the reason for whether or not the idea will be pursued.

Submission of this form does not constitute or guaranty board action.

Name: [Your Name]

Organization: [Name of business, organization, or agency]

Preferred method of contact:

Phone Number: [Provide phone number]

Email: [Provide email]

Your Background (click on one checkbox):

- ☐ Towing Industry
- ☐ Member of the public
- ☐ Advocate
- ☐ Law Enforcement

- ☐ Government Agency
- ☐ Property Manager/Owner
- ☐ Other: _____

Concept Information

Type of Suggestion (click on one checkbox):

- ☐ Change to existing law
- ☐ Proposed new law
- ☐ Administrative Rule
- ☐ Regulation/Requirement
- ☐ Change to process/procedures
- ☐ Other: _____

Brief Description of the Concept:

[Provide a brief 1 – 2 sentence, high level summary]

Explain Why the Concept is Needed:

[Provide a concise but detailed explanation of why the change is needed, the issues that exist would be addressed, etc.]

Expected Outcome:

[If implemented, what is the expected outcome? Who would benefit? How would things be different?]

List the laws/statutes (ORS) or administrative rule (OAR) the Concept Will Affect:

[List related statutes]

Stakeholders and Interested Parties:

[List of parties who would be impacted or involved with the suggested change]

Fiscal Impact:

[What is the expected cost? How would implementation be funded? What additional funding may be needed]