

By: Metcalf

H.B. No. 2379

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the towing of certain property from a self-service storage facility for disposition by a vehicle storage facility.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 59.001, Property Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (4-a) to read as follows:

(4-a) "Vehicle storage facility" has the meaning assigned by Section 2303.002, Occupations Code.

SECTION 2. Section 59.043(a), Property Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The lessor's notice to the tenant of the claim must contain:

(1) an itemized account of the claim;

(2) the name, address, and telephone number of the lessor or the lessor's agent;

(3) a statement that the contents of the self-service storage facility have been seized under the contractual landlord's lien;

(4) a statement that if the tenant fails to satisfy the claim on or before the 14th day after the date the notice is delivered, the property may be, as applicable:

(A) sold at public auction under this subchapter;

or

(B) towed to a vehicle storage facility and

1 disposed of by the vehicle storage facility under Subchapter D,  
2 Chapter 2303, Occupations Code; and

3 (5) a statement underlined or printed in conspicuous  
4 bold print requesting a tenant who is in military service to notify  
5 the lessor of the status of the tenant's current military service  
6 immediately.

7 SECTION 3. Chapter 59, Property Code, is amended by adding  
8 Subchapter D to read as follows:

9 SUBCHAPTER D. TOWING OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO VEHICLE STORAGE  
10 FACILITY

11 Sec. 59.051. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only  
12 to property that is:

13 (1) a motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer for which  
14 a title or registration is required under Chapter 501 or 502,  
15 Transportation Code;

16 (2) a motorboat, vessel, or outboard motor for which a  
17 certificate of title is required under Subchapter B, Chapter 31,  
18 Parks and Wildlife Code; or

19 (3) a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, motorboat,  
20 vessel, or outboard motor registered or titled outside this state.

21 Sec. 59.052. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN PROPERTY TO VEHICLE  
22 STORAGE FACILITY. Notwithstanding Subchapter C, a lessor who takes  
23 possession of property to which this subchapter applies to enforce  
24 a lien under this chapter may transfer possession of the property  
25 and have the property towed to a vehicle storage facility for  
26 disposition by the vehicle storage facility under Subchapter D,  
27 Chapter 2303, Occupations Code, if:

1           (1) the transfer of possession and towing is  
2 authorized under a written rental agreement between the lessor and  
3 tenant;

4           (2) the lessor gives written notice of the lessor's  
5 claim to the tenant as required under Section 59.042(a) in the  
6 manner prescribed by Section 59.043;

7           (3) the tenant fails to satisfy the claim on or before  
8 the 14th day after the date the notice required under Section  
9 59.042(a) is delivered in the manner prescribed by Section 59.043;  
10 and

11           (4) the vehicle storage facility agrees in writing to  
12 accept possession of the property.

13           Sec. 59.053. LIEN EXTINGUISHED. A lessor's lien on  
14 property towed to a vehicle storage facility under Section 59.052  
15 is extinguished when the property is towed from the self-service  
16 storage facility.

17           Sec. 59.054. OTHER RIGHTS AND REMEDIES NOT AFFECTED.  
18 Except as provided by Section 59.053, this subchapter does not  
19 affect any right or remedy of the lessor at law or in equity.

20           Sec. 59.055. LESSOR'S LIABILITY FOR PROPERTY. A lessor is  
21 not liable to a tenant for any damage to property that the lessor  
22 has towed under Section 59.052 that occurs during the tow or after  
23 the property is towed from the self-service storage facility.

24           SECTION 4. Chapter 2303, Occupations Code, is amended by  
25 adding Subchapter E to read as follows:

1 SUBCHAPTER E. ACCEPTANCE AND DISPOSITION OF CERTAIN PROPERTY FROM

2 SELF-SERVICE STORAGE FACILITY

3 Sec. 2303.201. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "lessor"  
4 and "self-service storage facility" have the meanings assigned by  
5 Section 59.001, Property Code.

6 Sec. 2303.202. APPLICABILITY. This subchapter applies only  
7 to property described by Section 59.051, Property Code.

8 Sec. 2303.203. ACCEPTANCE OF PROPERTY. A vehicle storage  
9 facility shall accept property from a lessor who has transferred  
10 possession of the property from a self-service storage facility to  
11 the vehicle storage facility under Section 59.052, Property Code.

12 Sec. 2303.204. DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY. A vehicle storage  
13 facility that accepts property under Section 2303.203 may dispose  
14 of the property in the manner provided by Subchapter D for a vehicle  
15 received by a facility as described by Section 2303.151.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.