

By Senator Diaz-Balart

37-1294-99

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to motor vehicles; amending s.
3 715.05, F.S.; requiring notice to the insurer
4 of certain unclaimed or impounded vehicles;
5 providing an effective date.

6
7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

8
9 Section 1. Subsection (1) of section 715.05, Florida
10 Statutes, is amended to read:

11 715.05 Reporting of unclaimed motor vehicles.--

12 (1) Whenever any law enforcement agency authorizes the
13 removal of a vehicle or whenever any towing service, garage,
14 repair shop, or automotive service, storage, or parking place
15 notifies the law enforcement agency of possession of a vehicle
16 pursuant to s. 715.07(2)(a)2., the applicable law enforcement
17 agency shall contact the Department of Highway Safety and
18 Motor Vehicles, or the appropriate agency of the state of
19 registration, if known, within 24 hours through the medium of
20 electronic communications giving the full description of the
21 vehicle. Upon receipt of the full description of the vehicle,
22 the department shall search its files to determine the owner's
23 name, the name of the insurance company insuring the vehicle,
24 and whether any person has filed a lien upon the vehicle as
25 provided in s. 319.27(2) and (3) and notify the applicable law
26 enforcement agency within 72 hours. The person in charge of
27 the towing service, garage, repair shop, or automotive
28 service, storage, or parking place shall obtain such
29 information from the applicable law enforcement agency within
30 5 days from the date of storage and shall, by certified mail,
31 return receipt requested, notify the owner, the insurer, and

1 all lienholders of the location of the vehicle and of the fact
2 that it is unclaimed. Such notice shall be given within 7
3 days, excluding Saturday and Sunday, from the date of storage
4 and shall be complete upon mailing; however, if the state of
5 registration is unknown, the person in charge of the towing
6 service, garage, repair shop, or automotive service, storage,
7 or parking place shall make a good faith best effort in so
8 notifying the owner, the insurer, and any lienholders, and
9 such notice shall be given within a reasonable period of time
10 from the date of storage.

11 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31

SENATE SUMMARY

Requires notice to the insurer of certain unclaimed or
impounded motor vehicles.