

BILL NO. BL2019-1526 (MURPHY) – This ordinance, as substituted, would amend Metropolitan Code of Laws Chapter 6.80 to require parking lots to display certain signage if towing occurs on the premises.

This ordinance would require signage at a private parking lot before towing can occur. This would require a permanently affixed sign measuring not less than 24-inches in height and 18-inches in width to be placed on all point of vehicular ingress to the lot. The sign would be required to include the name and a 24-hour phone number for the towing company or booting company. Signs would be required to be placed between 42 and 72 inches from the ground. Signage would be required to be inspected by Metro Transportation Licensing Commission (MTLC) staff for compliance.

Under the ordinance, no vehicle parked at a private parking lot would be subject to towing unless signage compliant with these requirements is in place. Owners and operators of unattended private parking lots from which a vehicle is properly towed could require vehicle owners to pay applicable towing fees and unpaid parking fines in order to have the vehicle returned. A maximum booting fee of \$75 would apply.

The ordinance would further allow for the towing of unauthorized vehicles from private property only upon approval of the owner of the private property or the agent or lessee of the owner. If an authorized vehicle is towed, the vehicle owner or operator would be entitled to a full refund of any towing fee paid, plus fifty dollars. Whether a vehicle was improperly towed would be a determination of the MTLC.