



PLEASE OPPOSE H.B. 959

HB959, which will be heard in Senate Transportation Committee, would allow localities in Planning District 8 (Northern Virginia) to implement a second signature requirement prior to towing a vehicle illegally parked on private property.

What is a “second signature” requirement?

A regulation that requires written authorization for each individual tow from a business’s property, above and beyond any contract between a towing operator and the property owner (the “first signature”).

How would a second signature requirement affect businesses?

This bill allows localities to create a new regulatory burden for businesses and property owners for the removal of illegally parked vehicles on their own property.

What type of burden would this bill permit?

Small retail businesses rely on the availability of limited parking spaces for their customers and clients. Each additional minute that a trespassing vehicle deprives a business of that precious resource may result in lost revenues. Local towing practices should be crafted to foster the fast and efficient removal of illegally parked and trespassing vehicles.

“Second signature” policies draw out this process by requiring duplicative authorization for the removal of each trespassing vehicle as already provided for in the contractual agreement.

“Second signature” policies additionally pull employees away from their regular duties and may even require additional staffing to provide such authorizations during non-business hours.

These policies also raise worrying safety concerns by increasing the likelihood of confrontation between business and property management staff and aggrieved vehicle owners.

Consider a small dental office consisting of a single dentist and a hygienist. The necessity to authorize each individual tow represents a significant disruption.

We want to create a more positive business climate to attract and retain businesses in the Commonwealth. We believe, however, that policies such as “second signature” requirements work counter to that shared objective.

We ask that you vote to oppose HB 959 in Senate Transportation Committee this afternoon.

For more information, please contact John Musso, Arlington Chamber of Commerce at advocacy@arlingtonchamber.org