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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 345  
133<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 345's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** As Passed by the House

**Primary Sponsor:** Rep. Jones

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- The Registrar of Motor Vehicles is likely to be able to absorb the minimal one-time costs to develop a form to serve as an affidavit for use by towing services and storage facilities when obtaining the title to an unclaimed vehicle.

### Detailed Analysis

The bill establishes procedures for the owner of a towing service or storage facility to obtain a certificate of title for unclaimed motor vehicles towed and placed into storage pursuant to an order by law enforcement. Under current law, the county sheriff or local police chief is the only entity that can obtain the title to such a vehicle. Typically, law enforcement processes the required affidavit with the clerk of courts affirming that all requirements to take the title have been met, and assigns the title to the tower or storage facility. If the county sheriff or local police chief does not take this action, the vehicle cannot be disposed as there are no other remedies available to towing companies and storage facilities.

The bill does not affect unclaimed motor vehicles ordered into storage by law enforcement at publically operated impound lots since those facilities are typically operated by law enforcement and, as previously mentioned, they currently have the ability to obtain the title for unclaimed vehicles. There are currently no publically operated towing companies.

Within 90 days of the bill's effective date, the Registrar of Motor Vehicles is required to develop a form to serve as an affidavit by towing services and storage facilities to affirm that all of the necessary conditions have been met in order for the towing service or storage facility to obtain the title of an unclaimed motor vehicle. This requirement creates minimal one-time costs that the Registrar can likely absorb utilizing existing staff and resources.