



City of Philadelphia

City Council
Chief Clerk's Office
402 City Hall
Philadelphia, PA 19107

BILL NO. 260168

Introduced March 5, 2026

Councilmember Bass

**Referred to the
Committee on Commerce & Economic Development**

AN ORDINANCE

Amending Section 9-605 of The Philadelphia Code, entitled "Towing," by regulating the use of vehicle immobilization devices commonly known as barnacles and other non-wheel-based immobilization devices by private parking lot operators, all under certain terms and conditions.

THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

SECTION 1: Title 9 of the Philadelphia Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

TITLE 9. REGULATION OF BUSINESSES, TRADES AND PROFESSIONS

* * *

Section 9-605. Towing.

* * *

(11) Towing From Private Lots, Private Property and Driveways.

* * *

(i) Use of windshield immobilization devices or barnacles.

(.1) No owner, operator, lessee, or agent of a private parking lot within the City of Philadelphia shall install, place, or cause to be installed or placed any windshield immobilization device or barnacle on a motor vehicle unless the vehicle has been ticketed by the police or other law enforcement authority pursuant to Section 9-605(11)(d).

(.2) No towing company, parking enforcement company, or private parking lot

City of Philadelphia

BILL NO. 260168 continued

attendant shall immobilize a vehicle by means of a windshield-mounted device as a condition of payment, enforcement, or compliance.

* * *

(14) Enforcement.

* * *

(b) Fines, Civil Penalties, and License Suspension.

(.1) Violations of this Section and any regulations promulgated under this Section shall be subject to the following civil penalties and license suspensions:

* * *	* * *
Towing from private lot, private property or driveway in violation of § 9-605(11)(d) - (f), <i>(i)</i>	
First offense	\$1,000 and release of vehicle towed without charge and reimbursement for any damages caused to the vehicle
Second offense	\$1,000 and all other first offense penalties, and six months towing company license suspension
Third offense	\$1,000 and all other first offense penalties, and one year towing company license suspension

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

Explanation:

Italics indicate new matter added.