

STATE OF NEW YORK

6193--B

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

May 21, 2019

Introduced by Sens. KENNEDY, BRESLIN, CARLUCCI, GAUGHRAN, KAPLAN, LIU, TEDISCO -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first report, amended on first report, ordered to a second report and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of second report -- recommitted to the Committee on Transportation in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, in relation to allowing the commissioner of transportation to impound or immobilize stretch limousines in certain situations

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Paragraph b of subdivision 9 of section 140 of the trans-
2 portation law, as added by section 3 of part III of chapter 59 of the
3 laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:
4 b. (i) Whenever an altered motor vehicle commonly referred to as a
5 "stretch limousine" has failed an inspection and been placed out-of-ser-
6 vice, the commissioner may direct a police officer or his or her agent
7 to immediately secure possession of the number plates of such vehicle
8 and return the same to the commissioner of motor vehicles. The commis-
9 sioner shall notify the commissioner of motor vehicles to that effect,
10 and the commissioner of motor vehicles shall thereupon suspend the
11 registration of such vehicle until such time as the commissioner gives
12 notice that the out-of-service defect has been satisfactorily adjusted.
13 Provided, however, that the commissioner shall give notice and an oppor-
14 tunity to be heard within not more than thirty days of the suspension.
15 Failure of the holder or of any person possessing such plates to deliver
16 to the commissioner or his or her agent who requests the same pursuant
17 to this paragraph shall be a misdemeanor. The commissioner of motor

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 vehicles shall have the authority to deny a registration or renewal
2 application to any other person for the same vehicle where it has been
3 determined that such registrant's intent has been to evade the purposes
4 of this paragraph and where the commissioner of motor vehicles has
5 reasonable grounds to believe that such registration or renewal will
6 have the effect of defeating the purposes of this paragraph. The proce-
7 dure on any such suspension shall be the same as in the case of a
8 suspension under the vehicle and traffic law. Operation of such motor
9 vehicle while under suspension as provided in this subdivision shall
10 constitute a class A misdemeanor.

11 (ii) (a) Upon the seizure of number plates pursuant to subparagraph
12 (i) of this paragraph, if the out-of-service defect is of a type where
13 pursuant to the commissioner's regulations no inspection certificate
14 will be issued until the defect is repaired and a re-inspection is
15 conducted, or is related to its horn, and the commissioner determines
16 that allowing the altered motor vehicle to leave the inspection area
17 would be contrary to public safety, the commissioner may: (A) remove or
18 arrange for the removal of, or may direct any police officer to remove
19 or arrange for the removal of, the altered motor vehicle to a garage or
20 other place of safety under the commissioner's jurisdiction where it
21 shall remain impounded, subject to the provisions of this section; or
22 (B) immobilize or arrange for the immobilization of the altered motor
23 vehicle on premises owned or under the control of the owner of such
24 altered motor vehicle, subject to the provisions of this section. The
25 altered motor vehicle shall be entered into the New York statewide
26 police information network as an impounded or immobilized vehicle and
27 the commissioner shall promptly notify the owner that the altered motor
28 vehicle has been impounded or immobilized and the reason or reasons for
29 such impoundment or immobilization, and give such owner an opportunity
30 to be heard.

31 (b) A motor vehicle so impounded or immobilized shall be in the custo-
32 dy of the commissioner and shall not be released unless the commissioner
33 is satisfied that repairs have been scheduled or been made to satisfac-
34 torily adjust such vehicle's out-of-service defect or defects, and
35 payment has been made to the commissioner for the reasonable costs of
36 removal and storage of the altered motor vehicle if impounded. The
37 registered owner of the vehicle shall be responsible for such payment.

38 (c) When an altered motor vehicle seized and impounded or immobilized
39 pursuant to this subparagraph has been in the custody of the commission-
40 er for thirty days, the commissioner shall notify the owner and the
41 lienholder, if any, at his or her last known address by certified mail,
42 return receipt requested, that if repairs are not scheduled or made and
43 the vehicle not retrieved pursuant to clause (b) of this subparagraph
44 within thirty days from the date the notice is given, the commissioner
45 may dispose of such vehicle as an abandoned vehicle pursuant to section
46 twelve hundred twenty-four of the vehicle and traffic law and may seek
47 to recover towing and storage costs in a civil action in the name of the
48 people of the state of New York, if applicable. Costs recovered in a
49 civil action under this clause shall be paid to the commissioner for
50 deposit into the state treasury for towing and storage expenses, and any
51 remaining costs recovered in a civil action under this clause shall be
52 paid to the commissioner for deposit into the state treasury for actual
53 and necessary costs related to bus and motor vehicle inspections
54 conducted pursuant to this section.

55 (d) If an altered motor vehicle has been seized and not retrieved
56 pursuant to the provisions of this subparagraph within thirty days from

1 the date notice is given pursuant to clause (c) of this subparagraph,
2 such altered motor vehicle shall be deemed an abandoned vehicle and the
3 commissioner may dispose of such altered motor vehicle pursuant to
4 section twelve hundred twenty-four of the vehicle and traffic law.
5 Before any such disposal, the commissioner shall give ten days' notice
6 to the owner, who shall have an opportunity to appear and retrieve such
7 altered motor vehicle in accordance with clause (b) of this subparagraph
8 within ten days of the date such notice is given.

9 (e) An altered motor vehicle abandoned in accordance with the
10 provisions of this section shall be and become the property of the
11 department, subject however to any lien that was recorded prior to the
12 seizure.

13 (f) When an altered motor vehicle has been seized and impounded pursu-
14 ant to this subparagraph, the commissioner shall make the altered motor
15 vehicle available or grant access to it to any owner or any person
16 designated or authorized by such owner for the purpose of (I) taking
17 possession of any personal property found within the altered motor vehi-
18 cle and (II) obtaining proof of registration, financial security, title
19 or documentation in support thereof.

20 § 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a
21 law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any
22 rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its
23 effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such
24 effective date.