



ICC to gain stronger towing enforcement authority under new bill headed to Governor

Springfield, IL – The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will soon have expanded safety towing enforcement authority thanks to the passage of [Senate Bill 2040](#). The legislation sponsored by Sen. Celina Villanueva and Rep. Will Davis cracks down on predatory safety towing practices in the Chicagoland area by closing gaps in the Illinois Safety Towing Law. SB2040 now awaits Governor Pritzker's signature.

"ICC police have run detail after detail to stop wreck-chasers who monitor dispatch radios, drive up to accident scenes, and take advantage of unsuspecting drivers," said **ICC Chief of Police Ruben Ramirez Jr.** "The worst offenders rack up hundreds-of-thousands in fines, continue their illegal operations, and have even reregistered under new business names. Thanks to the reforms passed in SB2040, my officers will have better tools to keep rouge towers off Illinois' roadways."

"Chicagoans have had to deal with rouge towers who exploit gaps in the law for too long. Passing SB2040 sends a clear message: their bad behavior will no longer be tolerated," said **State Senator Celina Villanueva** (D-Chicago). "Thank you to my fellow co-sponsors and our supporters for working to bring this legislation to the finish line."

"Rogue towers have continued to prey on accident victims and put drivers at risk. I'm grateful to my colleagues in the statehouse who agree that Illinois can and should crack down on their shady business practices," said **State Representative Will Davis** (D-Homewood).

Senate Bill 2040 helps prevent unlawful safety tows by:

- Impounding tow trucks that violate state safety tow laws,
- Revoking license plates for tow trucks with unpaid fines,
- Preventing known violators from reregistering under a new business name,
- Registering business and storage locations with proof of ownership/lease,
- Limiting tow locations to registered storage lots, licensed repair shops, or the motorist's requested location,
- Prohibiting tow operators from placing liens against essentials left in a vehicle, such as car seats, medical devices, and identifying documents, and
- Barring any applicant making false statements from holding a commercial vehicle safety relocater registration for three years.

"Our industry is excited to see accountability for the bad actors who are gaming the system," said, **Professional Towing & Recovery Operators of Illinois General Counsel Rory McGinty**. "Legitimate safety towers provide an important service to motorists after they've been in an accident or break down roadside, but wreck chasers give the entire industry a bad name. We applaud and support the Illinois Commerce Commission's efforts to address this ongoing problem."

The Illinois Commercial Safety Towing Law imposes safety measures on towing companies that relocate damaged or disabled vehicles. In 2013, a federal court preempted several of its provisions, preventing the ICC from regulating price, route, or service.

The reforms will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

Customers can [file a safety towing complaint](#) with the ICC and [view existing complaints](#) on the ICC's website.

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About the Illinois Commerce Commission

The Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) is a quasi-judicial body made up of five Commissioners. Through its Public Utility Program, the Commission oversees the provision of adequate, reliable, efficient, and safe utility services at the least possible cost to Illinois citizens served by electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, and sewer public utility companies. Through its Transportation Regulatory Program, the Commission oversees public safety and consumer protection programs with regard to intrastate commercial motor carriers of general freight, household goods movers, relocation towers, safety towers, personal property warehouses, and repossession agencies. The ICC's Rail Safety Program also inspects and regulates the general safety of railroad tracks, facilities, and equipment in the state.

To learn more about the Commission, its offices, and bureaus [here](#). Consumers who need help resolving a utility dispute can call 800-524-0795 or file [an online complaint](#). For all transportation-related complaints, call 847-294-4326.

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