

March 5, 2009

**H 500. REGULATION OF NONCONSENSUAL TOWING/ASHEVILLE.** Filed 3/5/09. *TO ALLOW THE CITY OF ASHEVILLE TO ESTABLISH REGULATIONS FOR THE TOWING OF MOTOR VEHICLES FROM PRIVATE LOTS, GARAGES, OR OTHER PARKING FACILITIES.*

Adds GS 160A-301(b2) to allow the City of Asheville to adopt an ordinance regulating the towing of motor vehicles from private lots, garages, and certain other facilities. Allows an ordinance to: establish a rate for towing not less than the rate established by the City for towing of junked or abandoned vehicles; require the release of a vehicle that has been attached to a wrecker for a fee of no more than 50% of the allowed towing fee if the owner or operator encounters the wrecker in the parking lot from which the vehicle is being removed; require the tow operator to accept credit or debit cards in addition to other forms of payment; to allow the owner or operator to retrieve medicine, pets, and personal property from the towed vehicle; require the lot to which the vehicle is removed to be secure and lighted; require the tow operator to notify the police within a reasonable time after towing, to maintain a number answered 24 hours a day, and respond to requests to release vehicles within a reasonable time; and require that daily storage fees not go into effect until the vehicle has been stored for 12 hours, with fees not to exceed 20% of the allowed fee.

**Intro. by Goforth, Whilden.**

BUNCOMBE