

Vehicle Booting Presentation

City Council Work Session, Sept. 18, 2018

Excerpts from Chapter 2308, Texas Occupations Code

Sec. 2308.2085. LOCAL AUTHORITY REGULATION OF BOOTING ACTIVITIES. (a) A local authority may regulate, in areas in which the entity regulates parking or traffic, booting activities, including:

- (1) operation of booting companies and operators that operate on a parking facility;
- (2) any permit and sign requirements in connection with the booting of a vehicle; and
- (3) fees that may be charged in connection with the booting of a vehicle.

(b) Regulations adopted under this section must:

- (1) incorporate the requirements of Sections [2308.257](#) and [2308.258](#);
- (2) include procedures for vehicle owners and operators to file a complaint with the local authority regarding a booting company or operator; and
- (3) provide for the imposition of a penalty on a booting company or operator for a violation of Section [2308.258](#).

Sec. 2308.257. BOOTING OF UNAUTHORIZED VEHICLE. (a) A parking facility owner may, without the consent of the owner or operator of an unauthorized vehicle, cause a boot to be installed on the vehicle in the parking facility if signs that comply with Subchapter G prohibiting unauthorized vehicles are located on the parking facility at the time of the booting and for the preceding 24 hours and remain installed at the time of the booting.

(b) A boot operator that installs a boot on a vehicle must affix a conspicuous notice to the vehicle's front windshield or driver's side window stating:

(1) that the vehicle has been booted and damage may occur if the vehicle is moved;

(2) the date and time the boot was installed;

(3) the name, address, and telephone number of the booting company;

(4) a telephone number that is answered 24 hours a day to enable the owner or operator of the vehicle to arrange for removal of the boot;

(5) the amount of the fee for removal of the boot and any associated parking fees;

(6) notice of the right of a vehicle owner or vehicle operator to a hearing under Subchapter J; and

(7) in the manner prescribed by the local authority, notice of the procedure to file a complaint with the local authority for violation of this chapter by a boot operator.

(c) On removal of a boot, the boot operator shall provide a receipt to the vehicle owner or operator stating:

(1) the name of the person who removed the boot;

(2) the date and time the boot was removed;

(3) the name of the person to whom the vehicle was released;

(4) the amount of fees paid for removal of the boot and any associated parking fees; and

(5) the right of the vehicle owner or operator to a hearing under Subchapter J.

(d) The booting company shall maintain a copy of the receipt at its place of business for a period of three years. A peace officer has the right, on request, to inspect and copy the records to determine compliance with the requirements of this section.

(e) A booting company shall accept payment by an electronic check, debit card, or credit card for any fee or charge associated with the removal of a boot. A booting company may not collect a fee for any charge associated with the removal of a boot from a person who offers to pay the charge with an electronic check, debit card, or credit card form of payment that the booting company is not equipped to accept.

Sec. 2308.258. BOOT REMOVAL. (a) A booting company responsible for the installation of a boot on a vehicle shall remove the boot not later than one hour after the time the owner or operator of the vehicle contacts the company to request removal of the boot.

(b) A booting company shall waive the amount of the fee for removal of a boot, excluding any associated parking fees, if the company fails to have the boot removed within the time prescribed by Subsection (a).

(c) A booting company responsible for the installation of more than one boot on a vehicle may not charge a total amount for the removal of the boots that is greater than the amount of the fee for the removal of a single boot.