



The Towing & Recovery Association of America (TRAA) has written a brief document highlighting the importance of knowing about your towing laws and how these laws are written. Please take a moment to read this document. The Pennsylvania Towing Association (PTA) like so many other towing associations across the country work very hard to make the right relationships to initiate favorable legislation for our industry and members.

We encourage all towing companies to support their local towing associations and allow them to work-as-one to solve the industries challenges. The PTA has made a lot of progress in recent times and we do have an active voice in the industry. Your participation and involvement will only enforce that progress in the future.

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Legislation & Your Business

By Joanne Blyton & Elizabeth Martineau-Dupuis

“Legislation” is a word we hear all the time. Despite the repetition, many owners and operators still do not fully appreciate how legislation can impact their businesses. From day-to-day operations to the bottom-line. Legislation is the government’s way of determining the rights and responsibilities of citizens and authorities. For example, the Montana Tow Truck Act establishes the rules, laws, and guidelines for towing operators throughout the State of Montana. You can bet that towing and recovery businesses within the state were impacted by that legislation.

This sort of regulation has already been passed across the country, from California to Massachusetts. While the intention is usually the protection of the motoring public and customers, much of this legislation is written by individuals who are not themselves tow operators or towing company owners. This presents the greatest threat to your livelihood, as legislation written without the tower’s input is often the most detrimental. It is your responsibility as a dedicated professional to protect, and work towards the benefit of, the towing and recovery industry.

One of your first responsibilities is to identify and engage with your state representatives and senators. Attend political fundraisers or make a campaign contribution, when appropriate. Engaging with your lawmakers is key whether voting on proposed legislation, amending existing legislation, or writing new legislation.

Once you’ve established yourself as a constituent, you can reach out and ask for their assistance. Remember, they do not know your business. You need to educate them on how rules and regulations impact you and your employees. Be sure to gather support from other stakeholders, such as your state towing association, realtor’s association, property management association, or any companion industry potentially impacted by the laws under consideration. Note, some state towing associations are very legislatively active and already have mechanisms for addressing these issues; join them.

If your legislator has agreed to address the issue, a draft bill will be written in accordance with state guidelines. The bill is then assigned to a legislative committee for consideration; if it passes it goes to either the House or Senate for action. The bill could be voted on or referred back to a committee. You may even be asked to testify as an industry expert.

This is not an overnight process, but then again, building your business wasn’t either. You need to be willing to give some time to ensure that towers have a say in your state’s laws. Volunteer and get involved; your business is riding on it.

Want to learn more? Register for *TRAA’s Legislative Action Day in Washington, DC* in March 2019. Learn proven techniques for legislative action, hold facilitated meetings with your state’s legislators, network, hear from special guest speakers, and more. <http://traaonline.com/legislativeactionday/>

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