

AN ACT

To amend sections 505.85 and 505.87 and to enact section 505.871 of the Revised Code to allow townships to remove junk motor vehicles from public and private property and to borrow money to pay for that removal of junk motor vehicles and for other debris from private property.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio:

SECTION 1. That sections 505.85 and 505.87 be amended and section 505.871 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:

Sec. 505.85. A board of township trustees may contract with a motor vehicle salvage dealer, as defined in section 4738.01 of the Revised Code, or a scrap metal processing facility, as defined in section 4737.05 of the Revised Code, for the removal or disposal of motor vehicles pursuant to section 505.173 or 505.871 or sections 4513.60 to 4513.64 of the Revised Code, and a board may contract with a storage facility or other similar facility for the storage or impoundment of motor vehicles pursuant to section 505.173 or sections 4513.60 to 4513.64 of the Revised Code.

Sec. 505.87. (A) A board of township trustees may provide for the abatement, control, or removal of vegetation, garbage, refuse, and other debris from land in the township, if the board determines that the owner's maintenance of ~~such~~ that vegetation, garbage, refuse, ~~and~~ or other debris constitutes a nuisance.

(B) At least seven days before providing for the abatement, control, or removal of any vegetation, garbage, refuse, or debris, the board of township trustees shall notify the owner of the land and any holders of liens of record upon the land that:

(1) The owner is ordered to abate, control, or remove the vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris, the owner's maintenance of which has been determined by the board to be a nuisance;

(2) If ~~such~~ that vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris is not abated, controlled, or removed, or if provision for its abatement, control, or removal is not made, within seven days, the board shall provide for the abatement,

control, or removal, and any expenses incurred by the board in performing that task shall be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry.

The board shall send the notice to the owner of the land by certified mail if the owner is a resident of the township or is a nonresident whose address is known, and by certified mail to lienholders of record; alternatively, if the owner is a resident of the township or is a nonresident whose address is known, the board may give notice to the owner by causing any of its agents or employees to post the notice on the principal structure on the land and to photograph that posted notice with a camera capable of recording the date of the photograph on it. If the owner's address is unknown and cannot reasonably be obtained, it is sufficient to publish the notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the township. The owner of the land or holders of liens of record upon the land may enter into an agreement with the board of township trustees providing for either party to the agreement to perform the abatement, control, or removal before the time the board is required to provide for the abatement, control, or removal under division (C) of this section.

(C) If, within seven days after notice is given, the owner of the land fails to abate, control, or remove the vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris, or no agreement for its abatement, control, or removal is entered into under division (B) of this section, the board of township trustees shall provide for the abatement, control, or removal and may employ the necessary labor, materials, and equipment to perform the task. All expenses incurred ~~shall~~, when approved by the board, shall be paid out of the township general fund from moneys not otherwise appropriated, except that if the expenses incurred exceed five hundred dollars, the board may borrow moneys from a financial institution to pay for the expenses in whole or in part.

(D) The board of township trustees shall make a written report to the county auditor of the board's action under this section. The board shall include in the report a proper description of the premises and a statement of all expenses incurred in providing for the abatement, control, or removal of any vegetation, garbage, refuse, or other debris; as provided in division (C) of this section, including the board's charges for its services, ~~notification the costs incurred in providing notice, any fees or interest paid to borrow moneys, and~~ the amount paid for the labor, materials, and equipment, ~~and a proper description of the premises.~~ The expenses incurred, when allowed, shall be entered upon the tax duplicate, are a lien upon the land from the date of the entry, ~~and~~ shall be collected as other taxes, and shall be returned to the township and placed in the township general fund.

Sec. 505.871. (A) A board of township trustees may provide, by resolution, for the removal of any vehicle in the unincorporated territory of the township that the board determines is a junk motor vehicle, as defined in section 505.173 of the Revised Code.

(B) If a junk motor vehicle is located on public property, the board of township trustees may provide in the resolution for the immediate removal of the vehicle.

(C)(1) If a junk motor vehicle is located on private property, the board of township trustees may provide in the resolution for the removal of the vehicle not sooner than fourteen days after the board serves written notice of its intention to remove or cause the removal of the vehicle on the owner of the land and any holders of liens of record on the land.

(2) The notice provided under this division shall generally describe the vehicle to be removed and indicate all of the following:

(a) The board has determined that the vehicle is a junk motor vehicle.

(b) If the owner of the land fails to remove the vehicle within fourteen days after service of the notice, the board may remove or cause the removal of the vehicle.

(c) Any expenses the board incurs in removing or causing the removal of the vehicle may be entered upon the tax duplicate and become a lien upon the land from the date of entry.

(3) The board shall serve the notice under this division by sending it by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the owner of the land, if the owner resides in the unincorporated territory of the township or if the owner resides outside the unincorporated territory of the township and the owner's address is known or ascertainable through an exercise of reasonable diligence. The board also shall send notice in such manner to any holders of liens of record on the land. If a notice sent by certified mail is refused or unclaimed, or if an owner's address is unknown and cannot reasonably be ascertained by an exercise of reasonable diligence, the board shall publish the notice once in a newspaper of general circulation in the township before the removal of the vehicle, and, if the land contains any structures, the board also shall post the notice on the principal structure on the land.

A notice sent by certified mail shall be deemed to be served for purposes of this section on the date it was received as indicated by the date on a signed return receipt. A notice given by publication shall be deemed to be served for purposes of this section on the date of the newspaper publication.

(D) The board of township trustees may cause the removal or may employ the labor, materials, and equipment necessary to remove a junk

motor vehicle under this section. All expenses incurred in removing or causing the removal of a junk motor vehicle, when approved by the board, shall be paid out of the township general fund from moneys not otherwise appropriated, except that if the expenses exceed five hundred dollars, the board may borrow moneys from a financial institution to pay the expenses in whole or in part.

(E) The board of township trustees may utilize any lawful means to collect the expenses incurred in removing or causing the removal of a junk motor vehicle under this section, including any fees or interest paid to borrow moneys under division (D) of this section. The board may direct the township fiscal officer to certify the expenses and a description of the land to the county auditor, who shall place the expenses upon the tax duplicate as a lien upon the land to be collected as other taxes and returned to the township general fund.

(F) Notwithstanding section 4513.65 of the Revised Code, but subject to division (G)(2) of this section, any collector's vehicle that meets the definition of a junk motor vehicle is subject to removal under this section.

(G)(1) Nothing in this section affects the authority of a board of township trustees to adopt and enforce resolutions under section 505.173 of the Revised Code to regulate the storage of junk motor vehicles on private or public property in the unincorporated territory of the township.

(2) A resolution adopted under this section is subject to the same restrictions specified in division (A) of section 505.173 of the Revised Code for resolutions adopted under that section.

SECTION 2. That existing sections 505.85 and 505.87 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.

H. B. No. 50

127th G.A.

Speaker _____ *of the House of Representatives.*

President _____ *of the Senate.*

Passed _____, 20____

Approved _____, 20____

Governor.

H. B. No. 50

127th G.A.

The section numbering of law of a general and permanent nature is complete and in conformity with the Revised Code.

Director, Legislative Service Commission.

Filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Columbus, Ohio, on the ___ day of _____, A. D. 20____.

Secretary of State.

File No. _____ Effective Date _____