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Driver and Vehicle Services Update

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This bulletin may be downloaded by visiting the Driver and Vehicle Services
website at www.dmv.pa.gov

Tom Wolf, Governor

Leslie S. Richards, Secretary

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SPECIAL EDITION

ACT 165 – Abandoned Vehicles

Act 165, which became law on November 4, 2016, amended Sections 102 and 7311.1 of Title 75.

The abandoned vehicle definition in Section 102 was amended to read:

- (1) A vehicle (other than a pedalcycle) shall be presumed to be abandoned under any of the following circumstances, but the presumption is rebuttable by a preponderance of the evidence:
 - i. The vehicle is physically inoperable and is left unattended on a highway or other public property for more than 48 hours.
 - ii. The vehicle has remained unattended illegally on a highway or other public property for a period of more than 48 hours.
 - iii. The vehicle is left unattended on or along a highway or other public property for more than 48 hours and does not bear all of the following:
 - (A) A valid registration plate.
 - (B) A current certificate of inspection.
 - (C) An ascertainable vehicle identification number.
 - iv. The vehicle has remained on private property without the consent of the owner or person in control of the property for more than 24 hours.
 - v. The vehicle has remained on the private property of a salvor for 20 days.
- (2) Vehicles and equipment used or to be used in construction or in the operation or maintenance of highways or public utility facilities, which are left in a manner which does not interfere with the normal movement of traffic, shall not be considered to be abandoned.

In addition, Section 7311.1, was amended to add the following:

(b) Salvors

- (1) An unauthorized vehicle that has been left unattended and on private property includes a vehicle towed to a salvor's property that has remained on the salvor's property for a period of 20 days.
- (2) After the 20-day period, the salvor may file a report as provided under subsection (a). If the salvor elects to file a report, the salvor shall retain and process the vehicle for which the report has been filed.

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