



BUSINESS OF THE CITY COUNCIL CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

AB 6818
November 18, 2025
Regular Business

AGENDA BILL INFORMATION

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| TITLE: | AB 6818: Code Amendments to Chapter 10.22 MICC Impounding (Ordinance No. 25C-32) | <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Only <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action Needed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution |
| RECOMMENDED ACTION: | Schedule Ordinance No. 25C-32 for second reading and adoption. | |

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| DEPARTMENT: | Police |
| STAFF: | Michelle Bennett, Interim Police Chief Mike Seifert, Police Commander Amelia Tjaden, Management Analyst |
| COUNCIL LIAISON: | n/a |
| EXHIBITS: | 1. Ordinance No. 25C-32 |
| CITY COUNCIL PRIORITY: | n/a |

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| AMOUNT OF EXPENDITURE | \$ n/a |
| AMOUNT BUDGETED | \$ n/a |
| APPROPRIATION REQUIRED | \$ n/a |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda bill is to conduct a first reading of Ordinance No. 25C-32 (Exhibit 1), amending MICC Chapter 10.22 Impounding.

- On September 19, 2025, the Mercer Island City Council adopted [Ordinance No. 25C-24](#) regarding regulations for electric motorcycles (e-motorcycles) ([AB 6772](#)). Ordinance No. 25C-24 gives the Mercer Island Police Department the authority to impound e-motorcycles.
- [MICC Chapter 10.22](#) establishes the procedural and financial framework for managing and recovering vehicles impounded by the Mercer Island Police Department. It was last amended in 1978 and requires updates to be consistent with state law and recent changes resulting from Ordinance No. 25C-24.
- Ordinance No. 25C-32 (Exhibit 1) amends MICC Chapter 10.22 to make it consistent with state law and establishes an administrative fee for impounds.

BACKGROUND

[Chapter 46.55](#) of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) authorizes law enforcement, regional transit authority representatives, or public officials, with jurisdiction to impound vehicles under circumstances set out in state law. Under [RCW 46.55.240](#), a city may, by ordinance, authorize other impound situations that

may arise locally upon the public right-of-way or other publicly owned or controlled property. Additionally, many cities in King County, including Burien, Federal Way, SeaTac, and Seattle have established administrative fees for impounds in their city code. The average administrative fee for impounds is \$100.

[MICC Chapter 10.22](#) establishes the procedural and financial framework for managing and recovering vehicles that have been impounded by the Mercer Island Police Department. This chapter was last amended in 1978 and requires substantial modernization to be consistent with state law and recent changes to the MICC.

On September 19, 2025, the Mercer Island City Council adopted Ordinance No. 25C-24 regarding regulations for electric motorcycles (e-motorcycles) ([AB 6772](#)). Ordinance No. 25C-24 classifies e-motorcycles, e-dirt bikes, and e-bikes that have been modified to no longer meet definition of an electric-assisted bicycle in RCW 46.04.169 as “electric motorcycles,” and makes these vehicles subject to the regulations and requirements for operating a motorcycle on a public road or right-of-way. Additionally, the ordinance gives the Mercer Island Police Department the authority to impound e-motorcycles. This ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2026.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Impound Procedures

Vehicles are impounded for various reasons, such as driving with a suspended license or driving under the influence. Vehicles may also be impounded for parking issues, like overstaying the 72-hour time limit or parking in a no-parking zone. In 2024, MIPD impounded approximately 150 vehicles.

When a law enforcement officer determines that an impound is needed, the officer requests through dispatch that the next tow company in rotation is called to retrieve the vehicle. It is common practice for cities to use a rotational tow list system for vehicle impoundment, rather than an exclusive contract with a single company. Once a tow company is contacted, the officer will document the impoundment and provide the owner with information for retrieval.

Owners of impounded vehicles can request an impoundment hearing with the hearing examiner. The hearing provides an opportunity for an owner to contest the validity of the impoundment or the amount of the towing and/or storage charges.

Ordinance No. 25C-32

Ordinance No. 25C-32 (Exhibit 1) amends MICC Chapter 10.22 to make it consistent with state law and the City Code revisions resulting from Ordinance No. 25C-24 regarding regulations and impoundment for electric motorcycles.

In addition to modernizing the code, Exhibit 1 also establishes an administrative fee for all impounds. This fee will be established in the Fee Schedule and subject to annual review. The administrative fee is not punitive in nature; the City cannot generate a profit from charging this fee. The fee recovers costs of staff time associated with an impound, including dispatch to the call, citing the vehicle, and waiting for the tow company to arrive. In 2026, the impound fee will be \$100, which is roughly the average for one hour of an officer’s time. The administrative fee will be adjusted each year by the first half Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) for Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue.

If adopted, the ordinance will go into effect on January 1, 2026. Upon adoption, impound procedures will change only slightly. An officer will request through dispatch for a tow company to impound the vehicle, notify the owner, and document the impoundment. Leveraging existing technology, the City will use an online portal to collect the administrative fee. Upon payment, the owner of the vehicle will receive a receipt that they will then present to the tow company to retrieve their vehicle. An owner of an impounded vehicle will not be able to retrieve their vehicle without proof of payment for the City administrative fee.

E-Motorcycle Impound

Under Exhibit 1, e-motorcycles will be treated as any other vehicle. When an operator of an e-motorcycle is stopped and it is determined the vehicle has been operated unlawfully, a tow company will be called to impound the e-motorcycle. The operator or owner will be subject to the City administrative fee. It will then be the owner's responsibility to demonstrate proof of payment of the City administrative fee and proof of ownership to the tow company to retrieve the vehicle.

NEXT STEPS

Second reading and adoption is planned for December 2. Ordinance No. 25C-32 will become effective on January 1, 2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Schedule Ordinance No. 25C-32 for second reading and adoption.