



and vehicle maintenance justify increasing the reimbursement rate to \$125. The department also acknowledges that tow truck operators face increasing costs related to storing removed abandoned vehicles for 45 days, draining fluids, and disposing of the vehicles.

The department acknowledges that tow truck operators work hard to keep Montana highways safe by removing abandoned vehicles in inclement weather and at all hours of day and night. Public safety is enhanced by removing abandoned vehicles, which can be difficult to see and may pose a roadside danger.

The department estimates that increasing the reimbursement payment to \$125 from the current reimbursement rate of \$100 per abandoned vehicle would provide each tow truck operator on average \$36 per year in additional reimbursement payments. Increasing the reimbursement rate to \$125 per abandoned vehicle removed would cost the fund a total increase of approximately \$10,700 per year. This is \$4,280 more than the originally proposed reimbursement rate of \$115, which would have cost the fund a total increase of approximately \$6,420 per year. Sufficient funds are available in the junk vehicle fund authorized under 15-1-122(2), MCA, to increase the reimbursement amount to \$125 per abandoned vehicle removed.

Reviewed by:

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY

/s/ Edward Hayes  
EDWARD HAYES  
Rule Reviewer

BY: /s/ Shaun McGrath  
SHAUN McGRATH  
Director

Certified to the Secretary of State November 12, 2019.