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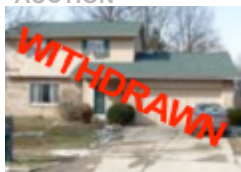
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2088 new records were added to our database at 4:42 PM, on January 29. The system now contains 3620352 records.

COURT FILING

- Bankruptcy
- Building Permit
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- Corporations
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- Criminal
- Domestic
- Marriage License
- Misc Lien
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- Municipal Court
- Probate Court
- Real Estate
- Sheriff's Auction
- U.S. Dist Court
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- SHERIFF'S AUCTION



09CVE03-4353  
 269 Crosslake Court  
 Westerville, OH 43081  
 Appraised: \$183,000  
 Deposit: \$18,300  
 Auction Date: 01/22/2010  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
 2010-1-29 4:43 PM

	+	=
Annexation	0	102
Bid Notice	2	1293
Divorce	0	1969
Foreclosure	6	7713
Juvenile	0	31772
Misc. Notice	4	6793
Probate	4	6853
Total		56495

HEARINGS

- Common Pleas
- Municipal Court

## Legislator: Bill would address predatory towing practices, protect consumers

**JACKIE NASH**  
Daily Reporter Staff Writer  
February 01, 2010

Legislation was introduced in the Ohio General Assembly last week to help reduce unfair, predatory towing practices in the state, and help protect Ohio consumers.

House Bill 425 would grant the Public Utilities Commission exclusive regulatory jurisdiction over all common and contract carrier towing companies and preempt local regulation, authorize the commission to establish a new certification program for common and contract carrier towing companies and a registration system for towed vehicle storage companies, revise law governing private tow-away zones, and make conforming changes in motor transportation company public utility law.

Rep. Tracy Heard, D-Columbus, the bill's sponsor, said she introduced HB 425 after speaking with constituents about their concerns over state towing.

"After countless meetings and discussion regarding this piece, I feel the work that went into HB 425 led to a responsible, common sense and much-needed bill," Heard said.

"Now consumers will be able to have a predictable course of action when they have their car towed. More importantly, the citizens of this state will have a mechanism to address situations where their rights have been abused and we will no longer live in a state where this type of recklessness and predation will go unpunished."

Heard said under HB 425, towing companies would be required to provide vehicle owners or operators with access to their towed or stored vehicles to retrieve personal property.

The bill also would establish a minimum contact of invoices, acceptable forms of payment for services, hours-of-operation requirements, and uniform standards and guidelines for providing proof of ownership or right to vehicle possession.

"(HB 425) would give the consumer a predictable course of action when they are faced with the unfortunate circumstance of having their car towed," said Loren Anthes, a legislative aide for Heard.

"There should be some easily understood process for the consumer so they know where their car's towed, and they know how much they owe. ...We want it to be as clear and concise as possible, so that the consumer is the one who ultimately benefits."

Anthes said although PUCO already has the authority to regulate towing companies - since they're defined as public utilities - it's not currently enforced.

HB 425 would ensure regulation on PUCO's part, but would not interrupt municipalities' ability to operate and own public utilities, he added.

Anthes said HB 425 would allow consumers to call the police department to find out their vehicle's location, whenever a non-consensual tow is performed. Towing companies would be required to report every non-consensual tow to the police department, under the bill, he added.

The official *newsletters* of the following associations are now online:



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Towing companies also would be required to report rate ranges for different types of towing, under HB 425, so consumers can ensure they are charged a fair amount, said Anthes.

Additionally, HB 425 would enforce concrete safety guidelines - deemed necessary due in part to an accident that occurred in Columbus five years ago, Anthes said.

Twenty-two-year-old Ohio State University student Danielle Knapp was killed by a tow truck pulley while driving on Jan. 13, 2005, Anthes said.

A tow truck operator was trying to pull a 32-ton out of the mud on the Interstate 270 median, when Knapp was driving on the highway, and his truck's 20-pound pulley broke due to the strain. Knapp was killed instantly, after being struck in the chin and chest by the equipment, authorities said. Anthes said the tow truck operator was found guilty of reckless homicide.

Anthes said HB 425 would enforce PUCO's power to regulate consistent safety guidelines, in order to prevent future incidents similar to Knapp's death.

"There needs to be a law that addresses these issues so we don't have these safety problems," he said.

Anthes said Heard has been working on HB 425 since January 2009, and has worked closely with the PUCO, the Columbus Police Department, the Chiefs of Police Association, the Ohio Municipal League, Ohio AAA and the Ohio Insurance Institute.

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