

Virginia Board for Towing and Recovery Operators (BTRO)  
January 23 – 11:00 AM  
Department of Motor Vehicles Headquarters  
Room 119  
2300 West Broad Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Draft Minutes

Members Present:

Mark Sawyers – Chair  
Woody Herring– Vice-Chair  
Ray Drumheller  
Cary Coleman  
Gary Teter  
Roy Boswell  
Randy Seibert  
Ron Miner  
Archie Orr  
Scott Wyatt  
Andres Alvarez (Designee of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services)  
Lieutenant Curtis Hardison (Designee of the Virginia State Police)  
Brock H. Cole (Designee of the Commissioner of Department of Motor Vehicles)

Members Absent:

Charlie Brown  
Ray Hodge

Staff Absent:

Jeff Spencer, Esq., Senior Assistant Attorney General

Staff Present:

J. Marc Copeland – Executive Director  
Daphane Phillips – Administrative Assistance

Call to order:

Chairman Sawyers called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

Public comments:

**Sue Brassell** from VATRO wanted to thank the Board for listening to the public's opinions throughout the process. Her three major concerns were the bill to eliminate the Board, the Salvage/ Abandoned Vehicle Report, the Mechanic and Storage Lien, and the public safety regulations. Mrs. Braswell believes that public safety regulations are needs to bring a level of professionalism to the towing industry.

**George Mahone** from Skimino Enterprise conveyed several concerns to the Board

1. The public safety regulations should be integrated into the general regulations
2. The Board should support HB 1404
3. The Board should enforce the "Move Over" law
4. The licensing process needs improvement
5. The reciprocating law with other jurisdictions

**Eric Fly** states that he is in support of HB 1404 and HB-1747 and hopes that the Board will support the legislation. Mr. Fly does not support HB 2169.

**Craig Bieber** of MIROAH affirms that his top priority is to preserve the Board and stop HB 2169.

Chairman Sawyers closed the public comment period at 11:20.

#### **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:**

Chairman Sawyers called for a motion to accept the minutes from the last meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Coleman, contingent on the correction that Mr. Andres Alvarez and Jeff Spencer were not present at the last meeting. Mr. Drumheller seconded the motions; all were in favor of this motion.

#### **Chair Report:**

Chairman Sawyers yielded the floor to Mr. Copeland to explain the current legislation in the General Assembly that affects BTRO.

#### **Executive Director's Report:**

Mr. Copeland provided a brief presentation on the Board's licensing process. As of January 20 the board issued 48% of Class A licenses, 52% of Class B licenses and 45% of the truck decals. The total of credentials and licenses issued were at 11%.

#### **Discussions/Other Board Actions:**

Discussion of Pending Legislation:

HB1724 has yet to be presented in the House. HB 997 was reported by the Senate Transportation Committee 7 to 4. Other bills involving BTRO were HB 2169, HB 2276, HB 2505 and HB 1449

Mr. Copeland stated that the Board will focus on HB 1747, SB 1404, and HB 2169.

Mr. Copeland reported that substitute language was bring written for HB 1747 and HB 2169. The substitutes will be presented next week.

SB 1404 the bill that prevents the Board of establishing public safety regulations, was discussed by the Board. The Board decided to form guidelines that each locality may use, but is non-binding.

**The following agencies abstain for voting on any Bills:**

Andres Alvarez (Designee of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services)  
Lieutenant Curtis Hardison (Designee of the Virginia State Police)  
Brock H. Cole (Designee of the Commissioner of Department of Motor Vehicles)

Chairman Sawyers called for a 15-minute break at 12:33 pm.

The Board reconvened at 12:48 pm.

**The Board voted and approved the following motions:**

Mr. Herring made the motions to accept HB 1404 as it was written. Mr. Orr seconded the motion and all were in favor of this motion.

Mr. Wyatt made the motion to support HB 1747 if it became the companion bill to SB 1404. Mr. Coleman seconded the motion and all were in favor of this motion.

Mr. Teter made the motion to postpone the Licensing and Regulatory Committee Meeting until further notification of the General Assembly; all were in favor of this motion.

**Adjournment:**

Chairman Sawyers called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Seibert made the motion, which was seconded by Mr. Boswell; the adjournment passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.