

2006 Annual Report
of the
Virginia Board for Towing and Recovery Operators

Presented to
The Governor
and
General Assembly
of the
Commonwealth of Virginia

The Virginia Board for Towing and Recovery Operators (BTRO) was established by enactment of legislation (SB 134 and HB 1258) approved by the General Assembly and Governor of Virginia in the 2006 session. Generally the legislation established the BTRO for the purpose of licensure and regulation of towing and recovery operators. The BTRO went into effect July 1, 2006. Licensure, regulation and enforcement of standards of practice are to go into effect on July 1, 2008. Enabling legislation requires periodic reports be submitted to the Governor and General Assembly. The following is the Board's initial report.

The following were appointed as members of the initial BTRO:

Appointed by the Governor:

1. Charlie Brown of Salem- appointed as a Class A operator
2. Gary Teeter of Harrisonburg- appointed as a Class B operator
3. Ron Minor of Oak Hill- appointed as a Citizen Member

Appointed by the Speaker of the House:

1. Cary Coleman of Fredericksburg- appointed as a Class A or B operator
2. Woody Herring of Fairfax- appointed as a Class A operator
3. Mark Sawyer of Norfolk- appointed as a Class A or B operator
4. Randy Seibert of Richmond- appointed as a Class B operator
3. Vinay Patel of Sterling- appointed as a Citizen Member

Appointed by the Senate Rules Committee:

1. Roy Boswell of Stafford- appointed as a Class B operator
2. Ray Drumheller of Waynesboro- appointed as a Class A or B operator
3. Ray Hodge of Fredericksburg- appointed as a Class A operator
4. Jeff King of Glenn Allen- appointed as a Citizen Member

The following are members of the Board, as stipulated by the enabling legislation:

1. The Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, Demerst B. Smit.
2. The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, J. Carlton Courter, III or his designee: designee appointed- Andrew Iverz.
3. The Superintendent of State Police, Colonel W. Steven Flaherty or his designee: designee appointed- Captain Steven Chumley.

During the initial organizational phase of the BTRO and until such time as the Board hires its Executive Director and staff, staff of the Department of Motor Vehicles has generously provided administrative staff support.

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The initial organizational meeting of the Board was held on August 26, 2006. At that time Ray Hodge was elected Chairman and Ray Drumheller elected Vice President of the Board. Initial Committees established include:

1. Administrative Affairs Committee which will generally address personnel and financial affairs of the Board.
2. Licensure and Regulatory Affairs Committee which will oversee development and preliminary drafts of licensure prerequisites, examination for licensure and regulations of licensees.
3. By-Laws and Policy Committee to develop and oversee the internal organizational structure and operational parameters of the Board.
4. Communications and Consumer Affairs Committee which will address means by which the Board will maintain communication with both the regulated community and the public.

At its organizational meeting, Board members were provided instructions, training, and compliance related to the Freedom of Information Act, Administrative Process Act, Conflict of Interest, and were sworn in as Board members by the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Board additionally authorized the Administrative Affairs Committee to proceed with advertisement for the Executive Director position, to select an appropriate number of applicants for interview by the Committee, and for the Committee to recommend an applicant for approval by the Board as its first Executive Director. It is anticipated that the new Executive Director will be in place and employed by the Board no later than mid November 2006.

In that the licensure and regulation of towing and recovery operators will not commence until July 1, 2008 the Board has no report on licensure, regulatory or disciplinary actions until after that date.

Due to the monumental task of establishing a system to license and regulate towing and recovery operators, current members of the Board plan on holding meeting of the BTRO on a monthly basis. Most likely, to meet the deadline of July 1, 2008 for implementation of licensure and regulation, it is anticipated the Board will be seeking adoption of Emergency Regulations.

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The Virginia Board of Towing and Recovery Operators is committed to adoption of fair and reasonable standards to establish a statewide standard for licensure and regulation of towing and recovery operators and further recognizes its purpose is to protect the interests of the public.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ray Hodge, Chairman
Virginia Board for Towing and Recovery Operators

Copies of this report distributed to:

The Governor of Virginia
Chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee
Chairman of the House Transportation Committee
Speaker of the House
Clerk of the Senate of Virginia
Clerk of the Virginia House of Delegates