

# THE GARDEN STATE TOWING ASSOCIATION ON THE MOVE

By Tow Times Staff



PHOTO: NJ TURNPIKE

A view of the New Jersey Turnpike, a major thoroughfare in the state that spans 117 miles and opened in 1951. GSTA is in discussions to boost the turnpike's towing rates.

**F**ounded in 1987, the Garden State Towing Association represents more than 200 towing and recovery companies, and it's assertive in speaking up for towing operators in New Jersey.

"In our role throughout the years, we've actively become a part of both setting and changing legislation affecting the towing industry," writes John Glass, president of GSTA for nearly 20 years and a tow company owner since 1980, in the association's annual Membership Directory and Resource Guide.

So much so, that GSTA likes to call itself "The Get It Done Association," adding, "We need you and you need us" to survive in an ever-changing industry, to stay informed and to provide training and education.

The training and education is not just for tow operators, but also extends to municipalities that contract them. To that end, GSTA has put together pointers for municipalities to consider when drafting a towing ordinance, including requirements and limitations in New Jersey's towing laws. The document, titled "Items to Be Considered When Drafting Ordinance

for Towing and Storage Service," helps elected officials and towing operators avoid miscues. Other towing associations would do well to emulate the move.

According to GSTA, "The list should help municipalities determine which points are applicable to their particular needs."

In 2019 GSTA continued its aggressive oversight of pending state legislation, racking up a few accomplishments. Here are some examples.

## Predatory Towing and Prevention Act (PTPA)

The Predatory Towing and Prevention Act (PTPA) has come under extreme scrutiny over the past two years. GSTA was successful in passing corrective legislation to attempt to rectify several issues. On December 20, 2018, the legislation was officially signed into law by Gov. Phil Murphy.

"We are confident that going forward this new legislation will help protect and

compensate our members for the work we all do daily," according to GSTA.

Recently the association submitted comments to the Division of Consumer Affairs about proposed amendments to the rules regarding PTPA.

## Abandoned Vehicles

GSTA recently met with representatives of the state's Motor Vehicle Commission to discuss solutions to issues surrounding the processing of abandoned vehicles.

## New Jersey Turnpike Authority

The association met with authority representatives to discuss an increase in rates.

"We requested a follow-up meeting and are awaiting the date."

NJTPA has had two increases in the last 20 years, and their rates are way below the norm for law enforcement rates.

## A5310

GSTA has commented on and is watching this bill, which would

allow drivers of vehicles on restricted roadways to hire towing companies and motor clubs of their choice to provide service on those roadways.



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GSTA is being profiled as a MarketSmart client.