#### SENATE BILL NO. 270-COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

# (ON BEHALF OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES AUTHORITY)

## MARCH 2, 2001

### Referred to Committee on Transportation

SUMMARY—Makes various changes to provisions governing fully regulated carriers. (BDR 58-553)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Yes.

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Effect on the State: No.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets [omitted material] is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to transportation; imposing an annual fee upon certain fully regulated carriers; making various changes governing fully regulated carriers of passengers; requiring the drivers of fully regulated carriers of passengers to obtain drivers' permits; imposing a fee for the issuance and renewal of such a permit; establishing standards of conduct for such drivers; providing for the impoundment of certain vehicles by the transportation services authority; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

# THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

**Section 1.** Chapter 706 of NRS is hereby amended by adding thereto the provisions set forth as sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act.

Sec. 2. "Enforcement officer" means a member of the authority, a manager of transportation of the authority or any other employee designated by the authority to enforce the provisions of this chapter.

Sec. 3. "Fully regulated carrier of passengers" means a common carrier or contract carrier of passengers that is required to obtain from the authority a certificate of public convenience and necessity. The term includes, without limitation, a holder of a certificate that operates a taxicab or a limousine.

Sec. 4. A fully regulated carrier, other than a fully regulated carrier that operates taxicabs or an operator of a tow car, shall pay to the authority a fee of not more than \$350 per year for each vehicle that the authority has authorized the carrier to operate.

Sec. 5. 1. A member or the deputy of the authority shall issue a driver's permit to each qualified person who wishes to be employed as a driver by a fully regulated carrier of passengers. Before a member or the



deputy of the authority may issue a driver's permit pursuant to this section, the member or deputy shall:

- (a) Require the applicant for the driver's permit to submit a complete set of his fingerprints and written permission authorizing the authority to forward the fingerprints to the central repository for Nevada records of criminal history for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its report, and shall further investigate the background of the applicant; and
  - (b) Require proof that the applicant:

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- (1) Has been a resident of this state for at least 30 days before the date on which he filed his application for the driver's permit;
  - (2) Can read and orally communicate in the English language; and
- (3) Has a valid and appropriate license issued pursuant to NRS 483.340 which authorizes him to drive in this state the vehicle he will be employed to drive.
- 2. A member or the deputy of the authority may refuse to issue a driver's permit to an applicant if the applicant has been convicted of:
- (a) A felony, other than a sexual offense, in this state or any other jurisdiction within the 5 years immediately preceding the date on which he filed his application;
- (b) A felony involving any sexual offense in this state or any other jurisdiction at any time before the date on which he filed his application;
- (c) A violation of NRS 484.379 or 484.3795, or a law in another jurisdiction that prohibits the same or similar conduct, within the 3 years immediately preceding the date on which he filed his application.
- 3. A member or the deputy of the authority may refuse to issue a driver's permit to an applicant if, after the investigation of the background of the applicant, the member or deputy of the authority reasonably determines that the applicant is morally unfit or that the issuance of a driver's permit to the applicant would be detrimental to public health, welfare or safety.
  - 4. There must be paid to the authority for:
  - (a) The issuance of an original driver's permit, a fee of \$50.
  - (b) The renewal of a driver's permit, a fee of \$25.
- Sec. 6. An application for the issuance of a driver's permit must
- include the social security number of the applicant.

  Sec. 7. 1. An applicant for the issuance or renewal of a driver's permit shall submit to the authority the statement prescribed by the welfare division of the department of human resources pursuant to NRS 425.520. The statement must be completed and signed by the applicant.
- 2. The authority shall include the statement required pursuant to subsection 1 in:
- (a) The application or any other forms that must be submitted for the issuance or renewal of the driver's permit; or
  - (b) A separate form prescribed by the authority.
- 3. A driver's permit may not be issued or renewed by the authority if
  - (a) Fails to submit the statement required pursuant to subsection 1; or



- (b) Indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order.
- 4. If an applicant indicates on the statement submitted pursuant to subsection 1 that he is subject to a court order for the support of a child and is not in compliance with the order or a plan approved by the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order for the repayment of the amount owed pursuant to the order, the authority shall advise the applicant to contact the district attorney or other public agency enforcing the order to determine the actions that the applicant may take to satisfy the arrearage.
- Sec. 8. 1. Before applying to a fully regulated carrier of passengers for employment as a driver, a person must obtain a physician's certificate, with two copies thereof, from a physician who is licensed to practice medicine in this state.
- 2. A physician shall issue a certificate and two copies thereof to an applicant if the physician finds that the applicant meets the applicable health requirements established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, 49 C.F.R. §§ 391.41 et seq.
- 3. A certificate from a physician issued pursuant to this section must:
  (a) State that the physician has examined the applicant and found that the applicant meets the applicable health requirements established by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, 49 C.F.R. §§ 391.41 et seq.;

*and* 

- (b) Be signed and dated by the physician issuing the certificate.
- 4. A certificate from a physician issued pursuant to this section expires 2 years after the date on which it was issued and may be renewed.
- Sec. 9. 1. A fully regulated carrier of passengers shall not employ a person as a driver unless the person has obtained and has on his person:
- (a) A valid driver's license issued by the State of Nevada pursuant to NRS 483.010 to 483.630, inclusive;
- (b) A copy of a certificate from a physician issued pursuant to section 8 of this act; and
  - (c) A driver's permit issued pursuant to section 5 of this act.
- 2. A fully regulated carrier of passengers shall, at the time that it employs a person to drive a vehicle:
- (a) Provide that person with a complete copy of NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive, and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto; and
- (b) Require the person to sign a statement acknowledging that he has received a complete copy of NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive, and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act, and any regulations adopted pursuant thereto, and has read and familiarized himself with the provisions included therein.



- Sec. 10. 1. A fully regulated carrier of passengers shall require each of its drivers to keep a daily trip sheet in a form to be prescribed by the authority.
- 2. At the beginning of each period of duty, a driver shall record on his daily trip sheet:
- (a) His name and the number of the vehicle;
- (b) The time at which he began his period of duty, by means of a time clock provided by the carrier; and
  - (c) The odometer reading of the vehicle.
- 3. During his period of duty, a driver shall record on his daily trip sheet:
  - (a) The time, place of origin and destination of each trip; and
  - (b) The number of passengers and amount of fare for each trip.
- 4. At the end of each period of duty, a driver shall record on his daily trip sheet:
- (a) The time at which he ended his period of duty, by means of a time clock provided by the carrier; and
  - (b) The odometer reading of the vehicle.
- 5. A carrier shall retain each of the daily trip sheets of its drivers in a safe place for at least 3 years immediately following December 31 of the year to which the daily trip sheets pertain. A carrier shall make the daily trip sheets available for inspection by a member or the deputy of the authority upon reasonable demand.
- 6.  $\mathring{A}$  driver who fails to maintain a daily trip sheet as required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.
- 26 Sec. 11. While a driver for a fully regulated carrier of passengers is 27 on duty:
  - 1. The driver:

- (a) Must be appropriately dressed in accordance with the standards of the business;
  - (b) Must be neat and clean in person and appearance;
- (c) Shall refrain from talking loudly, uttering profanity and shouting to other drivers;
- (d) Shall attend his vehicle if the vehicle is being held out for hire;
- (e) Shall discourage passengers from entering or leaving the vehicle from the left side, except at the left curb of a one-way street or while the vehicle is parked at an angle to the curb; and
- (f) Shall operate his vehicle in accordance with all applicable state and local laws and regulations, and with due regard for the safety, comfort and convenience of passengers and the general public.
  - 2. The driver shall not:
- (a) Have in his possession a lit cigar, cigarette or pipe while a passenger is being carried in his vehicle;
- (b) Chew tobacco or use snuff while a passenger is being carried in his vehicle;
- (c) Load or unload passengers or luggage at an intersection or crosswalk, or at any place or in any manner that will interfere with the orderly flow of traffic;
  - (d) Leave his vehicle unattended with the key in the ignition lock; or



(e) Carry passengers in a manner inconsistent with the manufacturer's recommendations or in a way to obstruct his vision for safe operation of the vehicle.

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- Sec. 12. With respect to the destination of a passenger, a driver of a fully regulated carrier of passengers shall not:
- 1. Deceive or attempt to deceive any passenger who rides or desires to ride in the vehicle;
- 2. Convey or attempt to convey any passenger to a destination other than the one directed by the passenger;
- 3. Take a longer route than is necessary to the destination requested by the passenger, unless otherwise directed to do so by the passenger; or
- 4. Fail to comply with any reasonable and lawful request of the passenger concerning speed and route to be taken.
- Sec. 13. 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, a driver of a fully regulated carrier of passengers shall not refuse or neglect to transport any orderly person to the destination requested by that person
- (a) The person requests that the driver transport the person to that destination; and
- (b) The requested destination is located within the area of operation authorized by the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued to the carrier.
- 2. A driver of a fully regulated carrier of passengers is not subject to the provisions of subsection 1 if the driver can show beyond a reasonable doubt that:
- (a) The driver had good reason to fear for his personal safety;
  - (b) The vehicle has been previously engaged by another person; or
- (c) The driver is forbidden by statute or regulation to carry the person requesting the transportation.
- Sec. 14. 1. If a driver of a fully regulated carrier of passengers violates any provision of sections 8 to 13, inclusive, of this act, an enforcement officer may impose the following sanctions:
- (a) For a first offense, a warning or a fine of not more than \$100, or both a warning and a fine.
- (b) For a second offense, a suspension of the driver's permit issued to the driver of not more than 3 days or a fine of not more than \$200, or both a suspension and a fine.
- (c) For a third offense, a suspension of the driver's permit issued to the driver of not more than 6 days or a fine of not more than \$300, or 40 both a suspension and a fine.
  - (d) For a fourth offense, a suspension of the driver's permit issued to the driver of 10 days or a fine of not more than \$500, or both a suspension and a fine.
  - (e) For a fifth or subsequent offense, the revocation of the driver's permit issued to the driver or a fine of not more than \$500, or both the revocation of the driver's permit and a fine.
  - 2. For the purposes of subsection 1, only those violations occurring in the 12 months immediately preceding the most current violation may be considered. The enforcement officer shall inspect the record of the



offending driver to determine the number of offenses committed during the immediately preceding 12-month period.

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- 3. The enforcement officer must conduct a hearing before he revokes or suspends the driver's permit of a driver or imposes a fine against a driver pursuant to this section.
  - Sec. 15. 1. A driver of a fully regulated carrier of passengers:
- (a) Shall not drive a vehicle or go on duty while under the influence of, or impaired by, any controlled substance, dangerous drug or intoxicating liquor.
- (b) Shall not drink or otherwise consume any intoxicating liquor while on duty.
- (c) Shall not, at any time, use or consume any controlled substance or dangerous drug that may impair his ability to operate a motor vehicle and shall not, at any time, use or consume any other controlled substance or dangerous drug, except in accordance with a lawfully issued prescription.
- (d) Shall obey all provisions and restrictions of the certificate of public convenience and necessity issued to the carrier.
- 2. If a driver violates any provision of subsection 1, an enforcement officer may, after a hearing, impose the following sanctions:
- (a) For a first offense, a suspension of the driver's permit issued to the driver of not more than 5 days or a fine of not more than \$100, or both a suspension and a fine.
- (b) For a second offense, a suspension of the driver's permit issued to the driver of not more than 20 days or a fine of not more than \$300, or both a suspension and a fine.
- (c) For a third or subsequent offense, the revocation of the driver's permit issued to the driver or a fine of not more than \$500, or both the revocation of the driver's permit and a fine.
- In addition to any fine set forth in this subsection, the enforcement officer may revoke the driver's permit issued to a driver for any violation of paragraph (a) of subsection 1.
- 3. For the purposes of this section, only those violations occurring in the 12 months immediately preceding the most current violation may be considered. The enforcement officer shall inspect the record of the offending driver to determine the number of offenses committed during the immediately preceding 12-month period.

  Sec. 16. NRS 706.011 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 706.011 As used in NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive, *and sections 2* to 15, inclusive, of this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 706.013 to 706.146, inclusive, and sections 2 and 3 of this act have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.
  - **Sec. 17.** NRS 706.2885 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 706.2885 1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity, permit or license issued in accordance with this chapter is not a franchise and may be revoked.
- 48 2. The authority may at any time, for good cause shown, after investigation and hearing, unless waived by the holder of the certificate,



license or permit, and upon 5 days' written notice to the [grantee,] holder, suspend any certificate, permit or license issued in accordance with the provisions of NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive, and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act for a period not to exceed 60 days.

- 3. Upon receipt of a written complaint or on its own motion, the authority may, after investigation and hearing, revoke any certificate, permit or license [...] for any violation of NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive, and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto, or for knowingly allowing or requiring any employee to violate any provision of sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act or any regulation of the authority relating thereto. If service of the notice required by subsection 2 cannot be made or if the [grantee] holder relinquishes his interest in the certificate, permit or license by so notifying the authority in writing, the authority may revoke the certificate, permit or license without a hearing.
- 4. The proceedings thereafter are governed by the provisions of chapter 233B of NRS.
- 5. If the holder of a certificate or driver's permit fails to appear at the time and place stated in the notice for any hearing, the authority shall enter a finding of default. Upon the entering of a finding of default, the authority may suspend or revoke the certificate or driver's permit of the person who failed to appear and may impose the penalties as provided in this chapter. For good cause shown, the authority may set aside a finding of default entered pursuant to this subsection and proceed with a hearing on the matter.

**Sec. 18.** NRS 706.386 is hereby amended to read as follows:

- 706.386 1. It is unlawful, except as otherwise provided in NRS 373.117, 706.446, 706.453 and 706.745, for any fully regulated common motor carrier to operate as a carrier of intrastate commerce and any operator of a tow car to perform towing services within this state without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity from the authority.
- 2. A person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
  - Sec. 19. NRS 706.421 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 706.421 1. It is unlawful for any contract motor carrier to act as such within this state in intrastate commerce without first having obtained a permit therefor.
- 2. A person who violates the provisions of subsection 1 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
  - **Sec. 20.** NRS 706.476 is hereby amended to read as follows:
- 706.476 Except as otherwise provided in NRS 706.478:
- 1. A vehicle used [as a taxicab, limousine or other passenger vehicle in passenger service] by any person or entity in this state to provide any kind of transportation of passengers or property that is subject to the jurisdiction of the authority must be impounded by the authority if a certificate of public convenience and necessity has not been issued authorizing [its operation.] the operation of the vehicle. A hearing must be held by the authority [no] not later than the conclusion of the second



normal business day after impoundment, weekends and holidays excluded.
 As soon as practicable after impoundment, the authority shall notify the
 registered owner of the vehicle #:

(a) That the registered owner of the vehicle must post a bond in the amount of \$20,000 to ensure his presence at all proceedings held pursuant to this section;

(b) Of the of:

- (a) The time set for the hearing; and
- (c) Of his
- (b) His right to be represented by counsel during all phases of the proceedings.
- 2. The authority shall hold the vehicle until the registered owner of the vehicle appears and [-
- (a) Proves that helproves that:
- (a) He is the registered owner of the vehicle;
- (b) [Proves that he] He holds a valid certificate of public convenience and necessity;
  - [(c) Proves that the] and
  - (c) The vehicle meets all required standards of the authority. [; and
- (d) Posts a bond in the amount of \$20,000 with the authority.

The authority shall return the vehicle to its registered owner when the owner meets the requirements of this subsection and pays all costs of impoundment.

3. If the registered owner is unable to meet the requirements of paragraph (b) or (c) of subsection 2, the authority may assess an administrative fine against the registered owner for each such violation in the amount of \$5,000. The maximum amount of the administrative fine that may be assessed against a registered owner for a single impoundment of his vehicle pursuant to this section is \$10,000. The authority shall return the vehicle after any administrative fine imposed pursuant to this subsection and all costs of impoundment have been paid.

**Sec. 21.** NRS 706.756 is hereby amended to read as follows:

706.756 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2, any person who:

- (a) Operates a vehicle or causes it to be operated in any carriage to which the provisions of NRS 706.011 to 706.861, inclusive, *and sections 2* to 15, inclusive, of this act apply without first obtaining a [certificate,] driver's permit or license, or in violation of the terms thereof;
- (b) Fails to make any return or report required by the provisions of NRS 706.011 to 706.861, inclusive, and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act, or by the authority or the department pursuant to the provisions of NRS 706.011 to 706.861, inclusive [;], and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act;
- (c) Violates, or procures, aids or abets the violating of, any provision of NRS 706.011 to 706.861, inclusive [;], and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act;
- 46 this act;
   47 (d) Fails to obey any order, decision or regulation of the authority or the department;



- (e) Procures, aids or abets any person in his failure to obey such an order, decision or regulation of the authority or the department;
  - (f) Advertises, solicits, proffers bids or otherwise holds himself out to perform transportation as a common or contract carrier in violation of any of the provisions of NRS 706.011 to 706.861, inclusive [;], and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act;
    - (g) Advertises as providing:
      - (1) The services of a fully regulated carrier; or
      - (2) Towing services,

without including the number of his certificate of public convenience and necessity or contract carrier's permit in each advertisement;

- (h) Knowingly offers, gives, solicits or accepts any rebate, concession or discrimination in violation of the provisions of this chapter;
- (i) Knowingly, willfully and fraudulently seeks to evade or defeat the purposes of this chapter;
- (j) Operates or causes to be operated a vehicle which does not have the proper identifying device;
- (k) Displays or causes or permits to be displayed a certificate, permit, license or identifying device, knowing it to be fictitious or to have been canceled, revoked, suspended or altered;
- (l) Lends or knowingly permits the use of by one not entitled thereto any certificate, permit, license or identifying device issued to the person so lending or permitting the use thereof; [or]
- (m) Refuses or fails to surrender to the authority or department any certificate, permit, license or identifying device which has been suspended, canceled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of this chapter [1]; or
- (n) Knowingly makes or causes to be made, either directly or indirectly, a false statement on an application, account or other statement required by the authority or who violates any provision of sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act,
- is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months, or by both fine and imprisonment.
- 2. A person convicted of a *gross* misdemeanor for a violation of the provisions of NRS 706.386 or 706.421 shall be punished:
- (a) For the first offense, by a fine of not less than  $\{\$500\}$  \$1,000 nor more than  $\{\$1,000\}$  \$2,000;
- (b) For a second offense within 12 consecutive months and each subsequent offense, by a fine of [\$1,000;] \$2,000; or
- (c) For any offense, by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 16 months, 1 year, or by both the prescribed fine and imprisonment.
- 3. Any person who operates or permits the operation of a vehicle in passenger service without a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to NRS 706.391 is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If a law enforcement officer witnesses a violation of this subsection, he may cause the vehicle to be towed immediately from the scene [-] and impounded in accordance with NRS 706.476.



- 4. The fines provided in this section are mandatory and must not be reduced under any circumstances by the court.
- 5. Any bail allowed must not be less than the appropriate fine provided for by this section.
- 6. A conviction of a person pursuant to this section does not bar the authority from suspending or revoking any certificate, license or permit of the person so convicted. The imposition of a fine or the suspension or revocation of a certificate, license or permit by the authority pursuant to NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive, and sections 2 to 15, inclusive, of this act does not operate as a defense in any proceeding held pursuant to this section.
- **Sec. 22.** The amendatory provisions of this act do not apply to offenses committed before the effective date of this act.
  - **Sec. 23.** 1. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.
- 2. The provisions of sections 6 and 7 of this act expire by limitation on the date on which the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 666 requiring each state to establish procedures under which the state has authority to withhold or suspend, or to restrict the use of professional, occupational and recreational licenses of persons who:
- (a) Have failed to comply with a subpoena or warrant relating to a procedure to determine the paternity of a child or to establish or enforce an obligation for the support of a child; or
- 23 (b) Are in arrears in the payment for the support of one or more 24 children,
- are repealed by the Congress of the United States.



