

ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 351—ASSEMBLYWOMAN CARLTON

MARCH 21, 2011

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Referred to Committee on Commerce and Labor

SUMMARY—Revises provisions governing certain motor carriers.  
(BDR 58-1049)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: Increases or Newly  
Provides for Term of Imprisonment in County or City  
Jail or Detention Facility.  
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.

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AN ACT relating to motor carriers; authorizing operators of taxicabs and operators of limousines to accept credit cards and debit cards for payment of rates, fares and charges; authorizing the prescribing of maximum fees that may be charged to customers of taxicabs and limousines for the convenience of payment by a credit card or debit card; prohibiting issuers of credit cards and debit cards and certain other persons from prohibiting the collection of the convenience fees; providing penalties; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel's Digest:**

The Nevada Transportation Authority regulates common motor carriers of passengers, which include limousines and, in counties with a population of less than 400,000 (currently all counties other than Clark County), taxicabs. (NRS 706.166) The Taxicab Authority regulates taxicabs in counties with a population of 400,000 or more (currently Clark County). (NRS 706.8818)

**Sections 2 and 3** of this bill authorize taxicab and limousine operators to accept payment by a credit card or debit card. **Section 2** authorizes the Nevada Transportation Authority to prescribe by regulation or order the maximum fees that a taxicab motor carrier or limousine operator within its jurisdiction may charge for the convenience of paying by using a credit card or debit card. **Section 3** authorizes the Taxicab Authority to prescribe by regulation or order the maximum fees that a certificate holder in a county whose population is 400,000 or more may charge for the convenience of paying by using a credit card or debit card. **Sections 2 and 3** also prohibit an issuer of a credit card or debit card or certain other persons who facilitate the acceptance of a credit card or debit card from prohibiting the collection by a taxicab or limousine operator of the convenience fee.



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 and 3 of this act.

**Sec. 2. 1.** *A taxicab motor carrier or an operator of a limousine may enter into a contract with an issuer of credit cards and debit cards to provide for the acceptance of credit cards or debit cards by the taxicab motor carrier or the operator of a limousine for the payment of rates, fares and charges owed to the taxicab motor carrier or the operator of a limousine.*

**2.** *The Authority may prescribe by regulation or order the maximum fee that a taxicab motor carrier or an operator of a limousine may charge a customer for the convenience of using a credit card or debit card to make payment to the taxicab motor carrier or the operator of a limousine. In prescribing such fees, the Authority may consider the expenses incurred by the taxicab motor carrier or the operator of a limousine in accepting payment by a credit card or debit card, including, without limitation:*

*(a) Costs of required equipment and its installation;*

*(b) Administrative costs of processing credit card or debit card transactions; and*

*(c) Fees paid to issuers of credit cards or debit cards.*

**3.** *An issuer shall not, by contract or otherwise:*

*(a) Prohibit a taxicab motor carrier or an operator of a limousine from charging and collecting a fee authorized pursuant to subsection 2; or*

*(b) Require a taxicab motor carrier or an operator of a limousine to waive the right to charge and collect a fee authorized pursuant to subsection 2.*

**4.** *As used in this section, "issuer" means a business organization, financial institution or a duly authorized agency of a business organization or financial institution which:*

*(a) Issues a credit card or debit card; or*

*(b) Enters into a contract with a taxicab motor carrier, an operator of a limousine or other person to enable or facilitate the acceptance of a credit card or debit card.*

**Sec. 3. 1.** *A certificate holder may enter into a contract with an issuer of credit cards and debit cards to provide for the acceptance of credit cards or debit cards by the certificate holder for the payment of rates, fares and charges owed to the certificate holder.*



\* A B 3 5 1 R 1 \*

2. *The Taxicab Authority may prescribe by regulation or order the maximum fee that a certificate holder may charge a customer for the convenience of using a credit card or debit card to make payment to the certificate holder. In prescribing such fees, the Taxicab Authority may consider the expenses incurred by the certificate holder in accepting payment by a credit card or debit card, including, without limitation:*

(a) *Costs of required equipment and its installation;*

(b) *Administrative costs of processing credit card or debit card transactions; and*

(c) *Fees paid to issuers of credit cards or debit cards.*

3. *An issuer shall not, by contract or otherwise:*

(a) *Prohibit a certificate holder from charging and collecting a fee authorized pursuant to subsection 2; or*

(b) *Require a certificate holder to waive the right to charge and collect a fee authorized pursuant to subsection 2.*

4. *As used in this section, "issuer" means a business organization, financial institution or a duly authorized agency of a business organization or financial institution which:*

(a) *Issues a credit card or debit card; or*

(b) *Enters into a contract with a certificate holder or other person to enable or facilitate the acceptance of a credit card or debit card.*

**Sec. 4.** NRS 706.011 is hereby amended to read as follows:

706.011 As used in NRS 706.011 to 706.791, inclusive, *and section 2 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the words and terms defined in NRS 706.013 to 706.146, inclusive, have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

**Sec. 5.** 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 section 2 of this act* apply without first obtaining a certificate, 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 section 2 of this act* or by the Authority or the Department pursuant to the provisions of NRS 706.011 to 706.861, inclusive ~~[§]~~, *and section 2 of this act;*

(c) Violates, or procures, aids or abets the violating of, any provision of NRS 706.011 to 706.861, inclusive ~~[§]~~, *and section 2 of this act;*

(d) Fails to obey any order, decision or regulation of the Authority or the Department;



(e) Procures, aids or abets any person in the failure to obey such an order, decision or regulation of the Authority or the Department;

(f) Advertises, solicits, proffers bids or otherwise is held 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 section 2 of this act*;

(g) Advertises as providing:

(1) The services of a fully regulated carrier; or

(2) Towing services,

➔ without including the number of the person's 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 cancelled, 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, cancelled or revoked pursuant to the provisions of this chapter,

➔ 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. Any person who, in violation of the provisions of NRS 706.386, operates as a fully regulated common motor carrier without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience and necessity or any person who, in violation of the provisions of NRS 706.421, operates as a contract motor carrier without first obtaining a permit is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished:

(a) For a first offense within a period of 12 consecutive months, by a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000. In addition to the fine, the person may be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 6 months.

(b) For a second offense within a period of 12 consecutive months and for each subsequent offense that is committed within a



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1 period of 12 consecutive months of any prior offense under this  
2 subsection, by a fine of \$1,000. In addition to the fine, the person  
3 may be punished by imprisonment in the county jail for not more  
4 than 6 months.

5 3. Any person who, in violation of the provisions of NRS  
6 706.386, operates or permits the operation of a vehicle in passenger  
7 service without first obtaining a certificate of public convenience  
8 and necessity is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

9 4. If a law enforcement officer witnesses a violation of any  
10 provision of subsection 2 or 3, the law enforcement officer may  
11 cause the vehicle to be towed immediately from the scene and  
12 impounded in accordance with NRS 706.476.

13 5. The fines provided in this section are mandatory and must  
14 not be reduced under any circumstances by the court.

15 6. Any bail allowed must not be less than the appropriate fine  
16 provided for by this section.

17 **Sec. 6.** NRS 706.881 is hereby amended to read as follows:

18 706.881 1. The provisions of NRS 706.8811 to 706.885,  
19 inclusive, *and section 3 of this act*, apply to any county:

20 (a) Whose population is 400,000 or more; or

21 (b) For whom regulation by the Taxicab Authority is not  
22 required, if the board of county commissioners of the county has  
23 enacted an ordinance approving the inclusion of the county within  
24 the jurisdiction of the Taxicab Authority.

25 2. Upon receipt of a certified copy of such an ordinance from a  
26 county for whom regulation by the Taxicab Authority is not  
27 required, the Taxicab Authority shall exercise its regulatory  
28 authority pursuant to NRS 706.8811 to 706.885, inclusive, *and*  
29 *section 3 of this act*, within that county.

30 3. Within any such county, the provisions of this chapter which  
31 confer regulatory authority over taxicab motor carriers upon the  
32 Nevada Transportation Authority do not apply.

33 **Sec. 7.** NRS 706.8811 is hereby amended to read as follows:

34 706.8811 As used in NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, *and*  
35 *section 3 of this act*, unless the context otherwise requires, the  
36 words and terms defined in NRS 706.8812 to 706.8817, inclusive,  
37 have the meanings ascribed to them in those sections.

38 **Sec. 8.** NRS 706.885 is hereby amended to read as follows:

39 706.885 1. Any person who knowingly makes or causes to be  
40 made, either directly or indirectly, a false statement on an  
41 application, account or other statement required by the Taxicab  
42 Authority or the Administrator or who violates any of the provisions  
43 of NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, *and section 3 of this act* is  
44 guilty of a misdemeanor.



2. The Taxicab Authority or Administrator may at any time, for good cause shown and upon at least 5 days' notice to the grantee of any certificate or driver's permit, and after a hearing unless waived by the grantee, penalize the grantee of a certificate to a maximum amount of \$15,000 or penalize the grantee of a driver's permit to a maximum amount of \$500 or suspend or revoke the certificate or driver's permit granted by the Taxicab Authority or Administrator, respectively, for:

(a) Any violation of any provision of NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, *and section 3 of this act* or any regulation of the Taxicab Authority or Administrator.

(b) Knowingly permitting or requiring any employee to violate any provision of NRS 706.881 to 706.885, inclusive, *and section 3 of this act* or any regulation of the Taxicab Authority or Administrator.

➤ If a penalty is imposed on the grantee of a certificate pursuant to this section, the Taxicab Authority or Administrator may require the grantee to pay the costs of the proceeding, including investigative costs and attorney's fees.

3. When a driver or certificate holder fails to appear at the time and place stated in the notice for the hearing, the Administrator shall enter a finding of default. Upon a finding of default, the Administrator may suspend or revoke the license, permit or certificate of the person who failed to appear and impose the penalties provided in this chapter. For good cause shown, the Administrator may set aside a finding of default and proceed with the hearing.

4. Any person who operates or permits a taxicab to be operated in passenger service without a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued pursuant to NRS 706.8827, is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. If a law enforcement officer witnesses a violation of this subsection, the law enforcement officer may cause the vehicle to be towed immediately from the scene.

5. The conviction of a person pursuant to subsection 1 does not bar the Taxicab Authority or Administrator from suspending or revoking any certificate, permit or license of the person convicted. The imposition of a fine or suspension or revocation of any certificate, permit or license by the Taxicab Authority or Administrator does not operate as a defense in any proceeding brought under subsection 1.

**Sec. 9.** (Deleted by amendment.)

**Sec. 10.** (Deleted by amendment.)

