

BY REPRESENTATIVE JOHNSON

To enact R.S. 32:900.1, relative to for-hire motor vehicles used to transport railroad workers; to provide for minimum liability coverage for passengers; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. R.S. 32:900.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

A. This Section shall apply to persons, firms, corporations, or contract carriers who are in the for-hire business of providing transportation services on the highways of this state for railroad workers in the course of their employment.

B. It shall be unlawful for any for-hire person, firm, corporation, or contract carrier to operate any motor vehicle along or upon any public street or highway in any parish, incorporated city, town, or village in this state for the carriage of passengers employed by or contracting as workers for a railroad company in the course of their employment unless such for-hire person, firm, corporation, or contract carrier has given, and there is in full force and effect and on file with the office of motor vehicles of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, proof of financial responsibility pursuant to Subsection C of this Section.

C. When a vehicle that is designed to carry fifteen or fewer passengers is used by a for-hire person, firm, corporation, or contract carrier to transport passengers who are employed by or who are contracting as workers for a railroad company in the course of their employment, that for-hire person, firm, corporation, or contract carrier shall, as proof of financial responsibility, maintain and be able to

1        show verification of hit and run, uninsured, and underinsured motor vehicle coverage  
2        in a total amount of not less than five hundred thousand dollars per passenger.

3                D.(1) Whenever the owner of a for-hire carrier used to transport railroad  
4        workers is found in violation of this Section, the Department of Public Safety and  
5        Corrections, office of motor vehicles, shall send the owner a "Notice of Violation"  
6        within thirty days of the violation. The notice shall inform the owner that  
7        noncompliance with the provisions of this Section shall subject the registration of the  
8        carrier vehicle to suspension.

9                (2) The office of motor vehicles shall adopt rules and regulations in  
10       accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, subject to oversight by the House  
11       and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works as are  
12       necessary regarding the regulation and enforcement of this Section. This authority  
13       shall include the assessment of fees and fines in accordance with this Section.

14               (3) In the event that the driver and the owner are not the same person, the  
15       driver shall not be responsible for violations of this Section.

16               E. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to any railroad company  
17       using vehicles owned by the railroad company and operated by railroad employees  
18       to transport railroad employees in the course of their employment.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_