

By: Carona

S.B. No. 481

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to safety regulations for certain contract carriers.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 644.054, Transportation Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b) The department shall adopt rules regulating the operation of a contract carrier to which this section applies. The rules must:

(1) prohibit a person from operating a vehicle for more than 12 hours in a day;

(2) require a person who operates a vehicle for the number of consecutive hours or days the department determines is excessive to rest for a period determined by the department;

(3) require a contract carrier to keep a record of all hours a vehicle subject to regulation under this section is operated; ~~and~~

(4) require a contract carrier to perform alcohol and drug testing of vehicle operators on employment, on suspicion of alcohol or drug abuse, and periodically as determined by the department;

(5) require a contract carrier, at a minimum, to maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$1.5 million for each vehicle; and

1 (6) be determined by the department to be necessary to
2 protect the safety of a passenger being transported or the general
3 public.

4 (c) The department shall inform contract carriers and
5 railroad companies that employ contract carriers of the
6 requirements of state statutes applicable to contract carriers.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.