

1-1 By: Carona S.B. No. 481  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 14, 2009; February 17, 2009,  
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Transportation and  
1-4 Homeland Security; March 2, 2009, reported favorably by the  
1-5 following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; March 2, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to safety regulations for certain contract carriers.

1-9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-10 SECTION 1. Section 644.054, Transportation Code, is amended  
1-11 by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as  
1-12 follows:

1-13 (b) The department shall adopt rules regulating the  
1-14 operation of a contract carrier to which this section applies. The  
1-15 rules must:

1-16 (1) prohibit a person from operating a vehicle for  
1-17 more than 12 hours in a day;

1-18 (2) require a person who operates a vehicle for the  
1-19 number of consecutive hours or days the department determines is  
1-20 excessive to rest for a period determined by the department;

1-21 (3) require a contract carrier to keep a record of all  
1-22 hours a vehicle subject to regulation under this section is  
1-23 operated; ~~and~~

1-24 (4) require a contract carrier to perform alcohol and  
1-25 drug testing of vehicle operators on employment, on suspicion of  
1-26 alcohol or drug abuse, and periodically as determined by the  
1-27 department;

1-28 (5) require a contract carrier, at a minimum, to  
1-29 maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$1.5 million for each  
1-30 vehicle; and

1-31 (6) be determined by the department to be necessary to  
1-32 protect the safety of a passenger being transported or the general  
1-33 public.

1-34 (c) The department shall inform contract carriers and  
1-35 railroad companies that employ contract carriers of the  
1-36 requirements of state statutes applicable to contract carriers.

1-37 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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