

By: Martinez

H.B. No. 5151

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the regulation of certain contract carriers and subcontractors of contract carriers.

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

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

(a) In this section, "contract carrier" includes a subcontractor of a contract carrier.

(a-1) This section applies only to a contract carrier that transports an operating employee of a railroad on a road or highway of this state in a vehicle designed to carry 15 or fewer passengers.

(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;

(4) require a contract carrier to perform alcohol and

1 drug testing of vehicle operators on employment, on suspicion of
2 alcohol or drug abuse, and periodically as determined by the
3 department;

4 (5) require a contract carrier, at a minimum, to
5 maintain commercial automobile liability insurance in the amount of
6 \$3 [~~\$1.5~~] million for each vehicle; and

7 (6) be determined by the department to be necessary to
8 protect the safety of a passenger being transported or the general
9 public.

10 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.