

By: Carona

S.B. No. 481

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1

AN ACT

2 relating to safety regulations for certain contract carriers.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) require a contract carrier, at a minimum, to  
23 maintain liability insurance in the amount of \$1.5 million for each  
24 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.