

LEGISLATIVE BILL 845

Approved by the Governor April 16, 2008

Introduced by Fischer, 43.

FOR AN ACT relating to motor carriers; to amend section 75-369.06, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 75-363 and 75-369.03, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007; to create a penalty for out-of-service order violations and to authorize administrative fines for such violations; to change provisions governing distribution of civil penalties; and to repeal the original sections.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 75-363, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, is amended to read:

75-363 (1) The parts, subparts, and sections of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations listed below, as modified in this section, or any other parts, subparts, and sections referred to by such parts, subparts, and sections, in existence and effective as of January 1, 2007, are adopted as Nebraska law.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the regulations shall be applicable to:

(a) All motor carriers, drivers, and vehicles to which the federal regulations apply; and

(b) All motor carriers transporting persons or property in intrastate commerce to include:

(i) All vehicles of such motor carriers with a gross vehicle weight rating, gross combination weight rating, gross vehicle weight, or gross combination weight over ten thousand pounds;

(ii) All vehicles of such motor carriers designed or used to transport more than eight passengers, including the driver, for compensation, or designed or used to transport more than fifteen passengers, including the driver, and not used to transport passengers for compensation;

(iii) All vehicles of such motor carriers transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded pursuant to section 75-364; and

(iv) All drivers of such motor carriers if the drivers are operating a commercial motor vehicle as defined in section 60-465 which requires a commercial driver's license.

(3) The Legislature hereby adopts, as modified in this section, the following parts of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations:

(a) Part 382 - Controlled Substances And Alcohol Use And Testing;

(b) Part 385 - Safety Fitness Procedures;

(c) Part 387 - Minimum Levels of Financial Responsibility for Motor Carriers;

(d) Part 390 - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations; General;

(e) Part 391 - Qualifications Of Drivers And Longer Combination Vehicle (LCV) Driver Instructors;

(f) Part 392 - Driving Of Commercial Motor Vehicles;

(g) Part 393 - Parts And Accessories Necessary For Safe Operation;

(h) Part 395 - Hours Of Service Of Drivers;

(i) Part 396 - Inspection, Repair, And Maintenance;

(j) Part 397 - Transportation Of Hazardous Materials; Driving And Parking Rules; and

(k) Part 398 - Transportation Of Migrant Workers.

(4) The provisions of subpart E - Physical Qualifications And Examinations of 49 C.F.R. part 391 - Qualifications Of Drivers And Longer Combination Vehicle (LCV) Driver Instructors shall not apply to any driver subject to this section who: (a) Operates a commercial motor vehicle exclusively in intrastate commerce; and (b) holds, or has held, a commercial driver's license issued by this state prior to July 30, 1996.

(5) The regulations adopted in subsection (3) of this section shall not apply to farm trucks registered pursuant to section 60-3,146 with a gross weight of sixteen tons or less or to fertilizer and agricultural chemical application and distribution equipment transported in units with a capacity of three thousand five hundred gallons or less if the equipment is not required to be placarded pursuant to section 75-364. The following parts and sections of 49 C.F.R. chapter III shall not apply to drivers of farm trucks registered pursuant to section 60-3,146 and operated solely in intrastate commerce:

(a) All of part 391;

(b) Section 395.8 of part 395; and

(c) Section 396.11 of part 396.

(6) For purposes of this section, intrastate motor carriers shall not include any motor carrier or driver excepted from 49 C.F.R. chapter III by section 390.3(f) of part 390 or any nonprofit entity, operating solely in intrastate commerce, organized for the purpose of furnishing electric service.

(7) Part 395 - Hours Of Service Of Drivers shall apply to motor carriers and drivers who engage in intrastate commerce as defined in section 75-362, except that no motor carrier who engages in intrastate commerce shall permit or require any driver used by it to drive nor shall any driver drive:

(a) More than twelve hours following eight consecutive hours off duty; or

(b) For any period after having been on duty sixteen hours following eight consecutive hours off duty.

No motor carrier who engages in intrastate commerce shall permit or require a driver of a commercial motor vehicle, regardless of the number of motor carriers using the driver's services, to drive, nor shall any driver of a commercial motor vehicle drive, for any period after:

(i) Having been on duty seventy hours in any seven consecutive days if the employing motor carrier does not operate every day of the week; or

(ii) Having been on duty eighty hours in any period of eight consecutive days if the employing motor carrier operates motor vehicles every day of the week.

(8) Part 395 - Hours Of Service Of Drivers, as adopted in subsections (3) and (7) of this section, shall not apply to drivers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies for agricultural purposes when the transportation of such commodities or supplies occurs within a one-hundred-air-mile radius of the source of the commodities or the distribution point for the supplies when such transportation occurs during the period beginning on February 15 up to and including December 15 of each calendar year.

(9) 49 C.F.R. 390.21 - Marking Of Commercial Motor Vehicles shall not apply to farm trucks and farm truck-tractors registered pursuant to section 60-3,146 and operated solely in intrastate commerce.

(10) 49 C.F.R. 392.9a - Operating Authority shall not apply to Nebraska motor carriers operating commercial motor vehicles solely in intrastate commerce.

(11) No motor carrier shall permit or require a driver of a commercial motor vehicle to violate, and no driver of a commercial motor vehicle shall violate, any out-of-service order.

Sec. 2. Section 75-369.03, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, is amended to read:

75-369.03 (1) The Superintendent of Law Enforcement and Public Safety may issue an order imposing a civil penalty against a motor carrier transporting persons or property in interstate commerce for a violation of sections 75-348 to 75-358 or 75-392 to 75-399 or against a motor carrier transporting persons or property in intrastate commerce for a violation or violations of section 75-363 or 75-364 based upon an inspection conducted pursuant to section 75-366 in an amount which shall not exceed five hundred dollars for any single violation in any proceeding or series of related proceedings against any person or motor carrier as defined in 49 C.F.R. part 390.5 as adopted in section 75-363.

(2) The superintendent shall issue an order imposing a civil penalty in an amount not to exceed ten thousand dollars against a motor carrier transporting persons or property in interstate commerce for a violation of subsection (3) of section 60-4,162 based upon a conviction of such a violation.

(3) The superintendent shall issue an order imposing a civil penalty against a driver operating a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 60-465, that requires a commercial driver's license, in violation of an out-of-service order. The civil penalty shall be in an amount not less than two thousand five hundred dollars but not more than five thousand dollars for a first violation and not less than five thousand one dollars but not more than seven thousand five hundred dollars for a second or subsequent violation.

(4) The superintendent shall issue an order imposing a civil penalty against a motor carrier who knowingly allows, requires, permits, or authorizes the operation of a commercial motor vehicle, as defined in section 60-465, that requires a commercial driver's license, in violation of an out-of-service order. The civil penalty shall be not less than two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars but not more than twenty-five thousand dollars per violation.

(5) Upon the discovery of any violation by a motor carrier transporting persons or property in interstate commerce of section 75-307, 75-363, or 75-364 or sections 75-392 to 75-399 based upon an inspection

conducted pursuant to section 75-366, the superintendent shall immediately refer such violation to the appropriate federal agency for disposition, and upon the discovery of any violation by a motor carrier transporting persons or property in intrastate commerce of section 75-307 based upon such inspection, the superintendent shall refer such violation to the Public Service Commission for disposition.

Sec. 3. Section 75-369.06, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

75-369.06 Civil penalties assessed pursuant to section 75-369.03 and unpaid shall constitute a debt to the State of Nebraska which may be collected in the form of a lien foreclosure or recovered in a proper form of action in the name of the State of Nebraska in the district court of Lancaster County. Any civil penalty collected shall be remitted on a monthly basis to the State Treasurer for ~~credit to the permanent school fund~~ distribution in accordance with Article VII, section 5, of the Constitution of Nebraska.

Sec. 4. Original section 75-369.06, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, and sections 75-363 and 75-369.03, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2007, are repealed.