

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 625

BY REPRESENTATIVE TERRY LANDRY

MTR VEHICLE/COMMERCIAL: Provides relative to transporters of hazardous material

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:1512(B) and to enact R.S. 32:1512(E) and 1520(C), relative
3 to the transportation of hazardous material; to provide for additional factors for
4 consideration in determining the amount of a penalty assessed to persons who
5 transport hazardous material and are found to have committed certain violations; to
6 provide when a penalty will not be imposed on persons who transport hazardous
7 material following certain incidents involving hazardous material; to prohibit the
8 issuance of a citation for careless handling of hazardous material in certain
9 circumstances; and to provide for related matters.

10 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

11 Section 1. R.S. 32:1512(B) is hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 32:1512(E)
12 and 1520(C) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

13 §1512. Civil penalties; assessment

14 * * *

15 B. In determining the amount of the penalty, the secretary shall take into
16 account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation; the degree of
17 culpability of the person charged; the person's history of previous offenses and
18 ability to pay; the effect of the penalty on the person's ability to continue to operate;
19 the amount of measurable harm, the potential for measurable harm, or the total lack
20 of harm resulting from the violation; and any other matters that justice requires.

21 * * *

1 E. The secretary shall not subject a person to a civil penalty for a careless
 2 handling violation as defined in R.S. 32:1520(A) when that person or his
 3 representative reports an incident involving hazardous material that does not meet
 4 the reporting criteria as set forth in R.S. 32:1510.

* * *

6 §1520. Careless handling of hazardous material

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8 C. A person shall not be cited with a violation of this Section when that
 9 person or his representative reports an incident involving a hazardous material that
 10 does not meet the reporting criteria as set forth in R.S. 32:1510.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 625 Original

2016 Regular Session

Terry Landry

Abstract: Provides relative to factors used in determining the amount of civil penalties assessed on certain carriers after incidents involving hazardous material and when civil penalties, citations, or violations for incidents will not be imposed or issued.

Present law provides that the offering or accepting for transportation, loading or unloading, or transporting of hazardous materials, freight, and passengers in accordance with minimum state standards of safety is the responsibility of the state.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law (R.S. 32:1510) requires each person involved in an incident, accident, or the cleanup of an incident or accident during the transportation, loading, unloading, or related storage in any place of a hazardous material shall report immediately by electronic or telephonic notification to the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C) if that incident, accident, or cleanup of an incident or accident involves:

- (1) A fatality due to fire, explosion, or exposure to any hazardous material.
- (2) The hospitalization of any person due to fire, explosion, or exposure to any hazardous material.
- (3) A continuing danger to life, health, or property at the place of the incident or accident under certain circumstances.
- (4) An estimated property damage of more than \$10,000.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that any person who is determined by the DPS&C, after reasonable notice and opportunity for a fair and impartial hearing held in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, to have committed an act in violation of present law or any regulation issued thereunder, is subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$25,000. Provides that if the violation is a continuing one, each day of violation is a separate offense.

Proposed law retains present law.

Present law provides that in determining the amount of the penalty, DPS&C shall take into account the nature, circumstances, extent, and gravity of the violation; the degree of culpability of the person charged; the person's history of previous offenses and ability to pay; the effect of the penalty on the person's ability to continue to operate; and any other matters that justice requires.

Proposed law adds that DPS&C shall also take into account in assessing the penalty: the amount of measurable harm, the potential for measurable harm, or the total lack of harm resulting from the violation.

Present law provides that any person who offers or accepts for transportation, loads or unloads, or transports a hazardous material or hazardous waste in a careless or imprudent manner without regard for the hazards of the material or the circumstances of such actions shall be guilty of careless handling.

Proposed law retains present law and prohibits a person from being cited for violating present law (careless handling) when that person or his representative reports an incident involving a hazardous material that does not meet the reporting criteria as set forth in present law (R.S. 32:1510).

(Amends R.S. 32:1512(B); Adds R.S. 32:1512(E) and 1520(C))