

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5219

C 21 L 91

SYNOPSIS AS ENACTED

Brief Description: Changing the limits on liability of common carriers for damage or loss of baggage.

SPONSORS: Senators Patterson, Vognild and Rasmussen; by request of Utilities & Transportation Commission.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

BACKGROUND:

The maximum amount a passenger or shipper may recover for loss or damage to baggage transported by a for-hire bus (auto stage, airporter, excursion, charter) regulated by the Utilities and Transportation Commission is: (1) \$200 for each trunk and its contents; (2) \$50 for each suitcase, valise or traveling bag and its contents; and (3) \$25 for each box, bundle or package. These free baggage allowance limitations were established in 1961.

When a passenger checks his/her baggage with the carrier, the passenger can declare that the baggage has a value in excess of the statutory limitation and pay an additional charge. The rate varies from 50 cents to 75 cents per \$100 valuation, depending upon the amount contained in the individual carrier's published tariff.

On the federal level, the ICC's free baggage allowance limitation is \$250 per adult fare, unless a higher valuation is declared at the time of delivery to the carrier and an additional fee is paid. The carrier may publish a maximum additional value for which they will be liable, but the maximum value may not be less than \$1,000.

SUMMARY:

The free baggage allowance limitation is changed from a statutorily fixed amount to an amount set by the Utilities and Transportation Commission. Periodic review and rate adjustment are required of the commission.

VOTES ON FINAL PASSAGE:

Senate	48	0
House	91	0

EFFECTIVE: July 28, 1991

