

Date of Hearing: April 18, 2016

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Jim Frazier, Chair

AB 2718 (Gomez) – As Introduced February 19, 2016

SUBJECT: Vehicles: transportation of hazardous materials

SUMMARY: Updates the codes with respect to methods of communications between hazardous materials carriers and law enforcement. Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Authorizes a hazardous materials carrier to notify the California Highway Patrol (CHP) by electronic communication with regard to movements of hazardous materials.
- 2) Defines electronic communications including, but not limited to, email, facsimile, and telegram.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires a carrier, prior to transporting certain hazardous materials, to provide advance notification, in writing, to the CHP.
- 2) Requires CHP to notify the sheriff of each county and the police chief of each city through which the hazardous materials will be transported.
- 3) Requires those sheriffs and police chiefs to, in turn, make timely notification to fire chiefs within their respective jurisdictions.
- 4) Requires a carrier of hazardous materials to notify CHP, by phone or telegram, if there are any scheduling changes in the shipment, routes to be used, or shipment cancellations.
- 5) Provides that carriers who fail to notify law enforcement, as specified, are subject to civil penalties between \$500 and \$1,000 per violation.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: Existing law requires a carrier, transporting certain hazardous materials, to provide advance notification, in writing, to the CHP before the materials are moved through any given jurisdiction. Once notified, CHP is required to notify local law enforcement, who, in turn, notifies fire chiefs in their jurisdictions. The purpose of the notifications is to help ensure preparedness in the event of an accidental release of the material.

Provisions governing how communication between carriers and CHP and others were updated in 1988 and, as a result, do not reference commonly used electronically-based communications used today such as email and facsimile. Given that these methods of communication are more expedient and universally used, it stands to reason that existing law should be updated to provide for this method of interaction.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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