



Senator Timothy Green
13th Senate District

MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2010

Senator Green Files Legislation to Regulate Contract Carriers for Railroad Employees

JEFFERSON CITY — Senator Timothy Green, D-Spanish Lake, recently filed legislation to regulate the transportation of railroad employees through contract carriers in our state by establishing much-needed safety standards.

[Senate Bill 762](#) increases the safety of railroad workers by adopting new regulations on hours of operation to combat driver fatigue, requiring driver alcohol and drug testing after accidents, reviewing and maintaining workers' driving records, creating important maintenance and repair standards on vehicles, and setting reasonable liability insurance standards on contract carriers that transport railroad employees.

Every major railroad in the country uses contract carriers known as outside vendors for most crew transportation services. Current law fails to provide an insurance requirement and a commercial drivers' license (CDL), and has no drug and alcohol testing requirement. Federal regulations are not applicable if the service is within Missouri.

"Two of the biggest safety issues are distraction and fatigue, ones that we have all experienced," Sen. Green said. "A tired driver is a dangerous driver as performance starts to decline when sleep is reduced by even a few hours."

Missouri would not be alone in adopting these safety requirements. Last year, similar legislation passed in the Arkansas General Assembly with unanimous votes and was signed into law by the governor in February 2009.

"The safety of our railroad workers and other drivers on Missouri's highways is the number one objective of SB 762," Ken Menges, state director of the United Transportation Union said. "Sen. Green, a dedicated member of Missouri's organized labor movement, realizes the importance of safety on our roadways and is committed to fighting for our hardworking employees."

"States have the authority and the state has a responsibility to regulate contract carriers operating in Missouri," Sen. Green said. "Senate Bill 762 is necessary because contracts are not uniform from one railroad to another, and tragic accidents have occurred in Missouri."

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