

# **BUS** industry **SAFETY** council

Sponsored by the **American Bus Association**

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## **Government Activities Review Committee Summer Session • July 14-15, 2008 Ashburn (NTSB Academy), VA**

### **July 14, 2008**

Committee Chairman Ken Presley called the meeting to order. Attendees were as follows:

Pete Chandler	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Bonnie Bass	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Maureen Rinehart	DTMO, Department of Defense
Tracy Ramsey	DTMO, Department of Defense
Steve Parker	Consolidated Safety Services
Carol Mills	DTMO, Department of Defense
Eric Gregory	Certified Trans Services
Tim Davis	Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance
Dan Tomlinson	Indian Trails, Inc.
Blane Mitton	BSM Wireless
Brad Watkins	Consolidated Safety Services
Charles Corder	Coach USA
U. Glenn Leslie	Eagle Tours Trailways
Matt Michener	Americoach Travel
David Butcher	Riteway Bus Service
Albert C. Fleming	Trolley Tours
C.W. Newman	Express Transportation
Ken Presley	United Motorcoach Association

The Government Affairs Review Committee reviewed the revised Charter Service Rule promulgated by the Federal Transit Administration.

It was discovered even among the committee that there was considerable misunderstanding regarding compliance and implementation of the opportunities the revised rule produces for the private sector.

The committee identified the following as specific weak points in understanding the rule:

- 1) Equipment specifications (motorcoach vs school bus vs trolley vs transit style bus) and many operators believe they are required to offer vehicles specified in charter notices..
- 2) Correct response. It appears that many operators do not understand the requirement to contact the chartering party and continue to believe they are required to respond with proposals to the transits.
- 3) Special events. The private sector does not understand how they may capture special event opportunities when capacity requirements exceed their fleet size.

Bonnie Bass of Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration suggested a series of informative seminars. This suggestion was reiterated numerous times in the discussions by other members of the Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 PM.

**July 15, 2008**

Committee Chairman Ken Presley called the meeting to order. Attendees were as follows:

Pete Chandler	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Bonnie Bass	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
Steve Parker	Consolidated Safety Services
Carol Mills	DTMO, Department of Defense
Eric Gregory	Certified Trans Services
Charles Corder	Coach USA
Glenn Leslie	Eagle Tours Trailways
Matt Michener	Americoach Travel
David Butcher	Riteway Bus Service
Albert C. Fleming	Trolley Tours
C. W. Newman	Express Transportation
Clyde Hart	American Bus Association
Ken Presley	United Motorcoach Association

\*Note- Norm Littler, ABA / BISC Executive Director was present for part of the meeting.

The Committee examined two pieces of legislation primarily associated with the issues of occupant protection:

S. 2326 Motorcoach Safety Enhancement Act –Brown/Hutchison  
 H.R. 4690 Bluffton University Safety Act – Schuster

Clyde Hart graciously furnished an analysis chart which compared the two bills. The Committee discussed the two bills extensively.

The Committee acknowledged H.R. 4690 as the better bill. Members of the Committee were urged to contact their congressional representatives and urge sponsorship of the bill.

The Committee adjourned for lunch (12:05 PM).

The Committee reconvened (1:15 PM) and discussed the NPRM regarding "Commercial Driver's License Testing and Commercial Learner's Permit Standards."

The Committee exhausted discussions in many areas of the proposed rule including:

- 1) Commercial Learner's Permit
- 2) Knowledge Test
- 3) Skills Test
- 4) English only
- 5) Tamperproof CDL
- 6) Trained and certified trainers.

Recommendation: seven days (instead of proposed 30) for intrastate school bus drivers.

Meeting was concluded and the Committee joined the General Session.

The Chairman would like to acknowledge appreciation to Matt Michener for recording notes in both sessions.

Ken Presley