

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 22, 2012
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2012
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2012
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2488

Introduced by Assembly Member Williams

February 24, 2012

An act to add Section 35400.9 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2488, as amended, Williams. Vehicles: buses: length limitations.

Existing law imposes a 40-foot limitation on the length of vehicles that may be operated on the highways, with specified exemptions. Existing law exempts from this limitation an articulated bus or trolley and a bus, except a schoolbus, that is operated by a public agency or passenger stage corporation that is used in a transit system if it is equipped with a folding device attached to the front of the vehicle that is designed and used exclusively for transporting bicycles, does not materially affect efficiency or visibility of vehicle safety equipment, and does not extend more than 36 inches from the front of the body of the bus or trolley when fully deployed. In addition, existing law prohibits a bicycle that is transported on the above-described device from having the bicycle handlebars extend more than 42 inches from the front of the vehicle.

This bill would authorize Gold Coast Transit (GCT) to install folding devices attached to the front of its buses that are designed and used exclusively for transporting bicycles if the use of the device meets

certain requirements, including, but not limited to, that the device does not extend more than 40 inches from the front of the bus when fully deployed, and that the handlebars of the bicycles being transported do not extend more than 46 inches from the front of the bus. The bill would require GCT, if it installs the bicycle racks, to report to the Assembly Committee on Transportation and the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing on or before December 31, 2017, regarding safety issues and mobility improvements.

The bill would also ~~require~~ *require GCT*, prior to installing a folding device on a bus that is 45 feet in length, to establish a route review committee, as specified, in order to determine, by unanimous vote of the voting members of the committee, which routes proposed by GCT are suitable for the safe operation of a 45-foot bus that is equipped with a front-mounted bicycle rack *and to obtain certification approved by a licensed traffic engineer that all proposed routes are safe for travel by busses so equipped.* The bill would require the committee’s initial review to include a field review of the proposed routes.

The bill would make legislative findings and declarations as to the necessity of a special statute.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 35400.9 is added to the Vehicle Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 35400.9. (a) Notwithstanding Section 35400, Gold Coast
- 4 Transit (GCT), created pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with
- 5 Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the
- 6 Government Code as a joint powers agency, may install a folding
- 7 device attached to the front of a bus that is designed and used
- 8 exclusively for transporting bicycles if all of the following
- 9 conditions are met:
- 10 (1) The device does not extend more than 40 inches from the
- 11 front body of the bus when fully deployed.
- 12 (2) The device, including all bicycles transported on the device,
- 13 is mounted in a manner that does not materially affect efficiency
- 14 or visibility of vehicle safety equipment.

1 (3) The handlebars of a bicycle that is transported on a device
2 described in this subdivision do not extend more than 46 inches
3 from the front of the bus.

4 (b) (1) GCT shall establish a route review committee prior to
5 the installation of the initial folding device, pursuant to subdivision
6 (a), on a bus that is 45 feet in length. The purpose of the committee
7 is to ensure the safe operation of a 45-foot bus that is equipped
8 with a front-mounted bicycle rack.

9 (2) The committee established pursuant to this subdivision shall
10 perform an initial review of the routes on which GCT proposes to
11 operate a 45-foot bus equipped with a front-mounted bicycle rack.
12 The review shall include a field review of the proposed routes. It
13 is the intent of the Legislature that the field review required under
14 this paragraph include consultation with *licensed* traffic engineers
15 from affected public agencies that have jurisdiction over segments
16 of the route or routes under review, to ensure coordination with
17 all affected state and local public road agencies that may potentially
18 be impacted due to the operation of a 45-foot bus with a
19 front-mounted bicycle rack.

20 (3) (A) By unanimous vote of all voting members, the
21 committee shall make a determination of the routes that are suitable
22 for the safe operation of a 45-foot bus that is equipped with a
23 front-mounted bicycle rack.

24 (B) *Before conducting a vote pursuant to subparagraph (A),*
25 *the committee shall obtain certification approved by a licensed*
26 *traffic engineer that all proposed routes are safe for travel by 45*
27 *foot busses equipped with the bicycle racks specified in subdivision*
28 *(a).*

29 (4) Upon any proposal to make substantive changes or additions
30 to approved routes, those changes shall be subject to review and
31 certification pursuant to paragraph (2) prior to being approved by
32 the committee.

33 (5) The members of the committee shall be selected not more
34 than 30 days after receipt of the GCT proposal to equip a 45-foot
35 bus with a front-mounted bicycle rack and shall be comprised of
36 the following members:

37 (A) One member from GCT who shall be appointed by GCT's
38 general manager and who shall be a voting member of the
39 committee.

1 (B) One member who is a *licensed* traffic engineer selected by
2 the governing board of GCT and who shall be a voting member
3 of the committee.

4 (C) One member appointed by the labor organization that is the
5 exclusive representative of the busdrivers of GCT. If there is no
6 exclusive representative of the busdrivers, a busdriver member
7 shall be chosen by a majority vote of the busdrivers employed by
8 GCT. This member shall be a voting member of the committee.

9 (D) One member appointed by the governing board of GCT
10 who shall be a representative of the bicycling community and who
11 shall reside within the area of GCT's jurisdiction. This member
12 shall be a nonvoting member of the committee.

13 (c) If a folding device is installed pursuant to subdivision (a),
14 GCT shall submit a report in compliance with Section 9795 of the
15 Government Code to the Assembly Committee on Transportation
16 and the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing on or
17 before December 31, 2017. The report shall include a summary
18 of any vehicular or traffic incidents where the size of the folding
19 devices was a factor, and a summary of the mobility improvements
20 that these folding devices provide.

21 SEC. 2. Due to the unique circumstances of a large number of
22 bicycle riders using buses operated by Gold Coast Transit ; and
23 the need to determine whether there are safety considerations in
24 having 40-inch bicycle racks on the front of its buses, it is
25 necessary that, and the Legislature finds and declares that, a general
26 statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section
27 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution.