

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 863

Introduced by Assembly Member Dodd
(Principal coauthor: Assembly Member Brown)
(Coauthor: Senator Hill)

February 26, 2015

An act to amend Section 27375 of the Vehicle Code, relating to modified limousines.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 863, as introduced, Dodd. Modified limousines: passenger safety.

Existing law, on and after January 1, 2016, prohibits any person from operating a modified limousine that is modified prior to July 1, 2015, unless it is equipped with at least 2 rear side doors and one or 2 rear windows that the rear seat passengers or all passengers of the vehicle may open from the inside of the vehicle in case of any fire or other emergency, as specified.

This bill would instead make this prohibition operative on January 1, 2017.

Existing law requires, for modified limousines modified on or after July 1, 2015, that at least one of the side doors be located near the driver's compartment and another near the back of the vehicle.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to this provision.

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 27375 of the Vehicle Code is amended
2 to read:

3 27375. (a) Any person who operates a modified limousine
4 shall ensure that the vehicle has at least two rear side doors and
5 one or two rear windows, as specified in paragraph (1), that the
6 rear seat passengers or all passengers of the vehicle may open from
7 the inside of the vehicle in case of any fire or other emergency that
8 may require the immediate exit of the passengers of the vehicle.
9 A limousine subject to this section shall be equipped with both of
10 the following:

11 (1) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B), at least two
12 rear push-out windows that are accessible to all passengers. At
13 least one push-out window shall be located on each side of the
14 vehicle, unless the design of the limousine precludes the installation
15 of a push-out window on one side of the vehicle, in which case
16 the second push-out window shall instead be located in the roof
17 of the vehicle.

18 (B) If the design of the limousine precludes the installation of
19 even one push-out window on a side of the vehicle, one push-out
20 window shall instead be located in the roof of the vehicle.

21 (C) The Department of the California Highway Patrol shall
22 establish, by regulation, standards to ensure that window exits are
23 operable and sufficient in emergency situations for limousine
24 passengers. The department shall ensure that these regulations
25 comply with any applicable federal motor vehicle safety standards.

26 (2) At least two rear side doors that are accessible to all
27 passengers and that may be opened manually by any passenger.
28 At least one rear side door shall be located on each side of the
29 vehicle. For modified ~~limousines~~, *limousines modified* on or after
30 July 1, 2015, at least one of these side doors shall be located near
31 the driver's compartment and another near the back of the vehicle.
32 These side doors shall comply with any applicable federal motor
33 vehicle safety standards as deemed necessary by the Department
34 of the California Highway Patrol.

35 (b) In the case of a fire or other emergency that requires the
36 immediate exit of the passengers from the limousine, the driver of
37 the limousine shall unlock the doors so that the rear side doors can
38 be opened by the passengers from the inside of the vehicle.

1 (c) An owner or operator of a limousine shall do all of the
2 following:

3 (1) Instruct all passengers on the safety features of the vehicle
4 prior to the beginning of any trip, including, but not limited to,
5 instructions for lowering the partition between the driver and
6 passenger compartments and for communicating with the driver
7 by the use of an intercom or other onboard or wireless device.

8 (2) Disclose to the contracting party and the passengers whether
9 the limousine meets the safety requirements described in this
10 section.

11 (3) If paragraph (3) of subdivision (d) applies, the owner or
12 operator of a limousine shall further disclose to the contracting
13 party and the passengers that the limousine does not meet the safety
14 requirements required in subdivision (a) regarding vehicle escape
15 options because of its exempt status, and therefore may pose a
16 greater risk to passengers should emergency escape be necessary.

17 (d) (1) Subdivision (a) shall apply to all modified limousines
18 modified on or after July 1, 2015.

19 (2) Subdivision (a) shall, beginning January 1, ~~2016~~, 2017, apply
20 to all vehicles that met the definition of modified limousine, as
21 described in subdivision (b) of Section 378, that are modified prior
22 to July 1, 2015.

23 (3) Except as provided in paragraph (4), subdivision (a) shall
24 not apply to any limousine manufactured before 1970 that has an
25 active transportation charter-party carrier (TCP) number that was
26 issued by the commission as of August 15, 2013.

27 (4) Subdivision (a) shall apply to any limousine manufactured
28 before 1970 if it was modified after August 15, 2013.