

AMENDED IN SENATE AUGUST 24, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 15, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 27, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 29, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009—10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 652

Introduced by Assembly Member Skinner

February 25, 2009

An act to add Section 35400.7 to the Vehicle Code, relating to vehicles.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 652, as amended, Skinner. Vehicles: vehicle length limitation.

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 the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District to install folding devices attached to the front of its buses that are designed and used exclusively for transporting bicycles as long as those devices meet certain requirements, including, but not limited to, extending not more than 40 inches from the front of the bus when fully deployed, and that the handlebars of the bicycles being transported extend not more than 46 inches from the front of the bus. The bill would require that if Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District installs the bicycle racks, it would be required to report to the Assembly Committee on Transportation and the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing on or before December 31, 2014, regarding safety issues and mobility improvements.

This bill would also require the district, 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, which routes proposed by the district are suitable for the safe operation of a 45-foot bus that is equipped with a front-mounted bicycle rack. *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 35400.7 is added to the Vehicle Code,
- 2 to read:
- 3 35400.7. (a) Notwithstanding Section 35400, the
- 4 Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District created pursuant to Part 1
- 5 (commencing with Section 24501) of Division 10 of the Public
- 6 Utilities Code may install a folding device attached to the front of
- 7 a bus that is designed and used exclusively for transporting bicycles
- 8 if the following conditions are met:
- 9 (1) The device does not extend more than 40 inches from the
- 10 front body of the bus when fully deployed.
- 11 (2) The device, including all bicycles transported thereon, is
- 12 mounted in a manner that does not materially affect efficiency or
- 13 visibility of vehicle safety equipment.

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

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

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

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

25 (4) *Upon any proposal to make substantive changes or additions*
26 *to approved routes, those changes shall be subject to review and*
27 *certification pursuant to paragraph (2) prior to being approved*
28 *by the committee.*

29 (4)

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

34 (A) One member from the district who shall be appointed by
35 the district's general manager and who shall be a voting member
36 of the committee.

37 (B) One member who is a traffic engineer, ~~employed and~~
38 selected by the district and who shall be a voting member of the
39 committee.

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

7 (D) One member appointed by the governing board who shall
8 be a representative of the bicycling community and who shall
9 reside in the district. This member shall be a nonvoting member
10 of the committee.

11 (c) If a folding device is installed pursuant to subdivision (a),
12 the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District shall submit a report
13 to the Assembly Committee on Transportation and the Senate
14 Committee on Transportation and Housing on or before December
15 31, 2014. The report shall include a summary of any incidents
16 where the size of the folding devices was a factor, and a summary
17 of the mobility improvements these folding devices provide.

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