

SESSION OF 2002

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2799

As Recommended by House Committee on
Transportation

Brief*

HB 2799 pertains to exempted vehicles which can be operated without a commercial drivers license (CDL). Vehicles exempted would include those operated by firefighters and other persons which are necessary to the preservation of life or property or the execution of emergency governmental functions, are equipped with audible and visual signals, and are not subject to normal traffic regulation. These vehicles include fire trucks, hook and ladder trucks, foam or water transport trucks, police SWAT team vehicles, ambulances, or other vehicles that are used in response to emergencies.

Background

HB 2799 was supported by Representative Garner and D. Michael Brown, Commander, Coffeyville Police Department. The Commander testified that the Coffeyville Police Department recently purchased a surplus armored truck that has multiple uses. He noted that upon researching the current state statutes the Department found that the vehicle is considered a commercial motor vehicle, therefore, half of the department officers would be required to obtain a CDL. Upon further inquiry, it was discovered that the current federal regulations clearly exempt SWAT vehicles from the CDL requirement, leaving the option to exempt such vehicles to each individual state. The proposed amendment mirrors 49 CFR 383.3(d)(2).

HB 2799 would have no discernible fiscal effect.

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/fulltext/bills.cgi>