HLS 12RS-354 ORIGINAL

Regular Session, 2012

HOUSE BILL NO. 979

1

BY REPRESENTATIVE HOWARD

MTR VEHICLE/COMMERCIAL: Provides that certain commercial motor vehicle violations are to be handled as traffic tickets

AN ACT

2 To amend R.S. 32:387.6(4), 387.7(A)(4), 387.9(4), 387.16(B), 387.19(A), 388(A)(1), (3), 3 and (4), (B)(1), (2), and (4)(a), (C), (D), (E), and (F), 388.1, 389, and 392(A)(1) and 4 to repeal R.S. 32:388(G), relative to certain traffic violations by commercial motor 5 vehicle drivers; to provide that all law enforcement officers can enforce certain traffic laws relating to commercial motor vehicles; to repeal administrative appeal 6 7 procedure for certain violations by commercial motor vehicle drivers and carriers; 8 and to provide for related matters. 9 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana: 10 Section 1. R.S. 32:387.6(4), 387.7(A)(4), 387.9(4), 387.16(B), 387.19(A), 388(A)(1), 11 (3), and (4), (B)(1), (2), and (4)(a), (C), (D), (E), and (F), 388.1, 389, and 392(A)(1) are 12 hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows: 13 §387.6. Special permits; trucks hauling cotton modules 14 Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the secretary 15 shall issue annual special permits to persons who operate trucks which haul cotton 16 modules and are in compliance with the provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier 17 Safety Regulations. These permits shall be issued in accordance with the following 18 provisions: 19

CODING: Words in struck through type are deletions from existing law; words <u>underscored</u> are additions.

(4) The secretary may impose a civil penalty A fine of up to five cents per
pound for each violation of the limit established in this Subsection <u>may be imposed</u> .
The secretary, by rule, shall establish procedures for enforcing the provisions of this
Subsection, including a procedure by which persons accused of violations may
contest those accusations.

§387.7. Special permits; vehicles hauling sugarcane

A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary and provided that there are no objections raised by the federal government, the secretary shall issue annual special permits to persons who own or operate vehicles which haul sugarcane. Such permits may be issued to either the pulling unit or the trailer contained in the combination which shall have a minimum of eighteen wheels. These permits shall be issued in accordance with the following provisions:

* * *

(4)(a) The secretary may impose a civil penalty A fine of up to five cents per pound for each violation of the one hundred thousand pound limit may be imposed.

- (b) Beginning August 1, 2005, a A first violation of the one hundred thousand pound limit shall result in the civil penalty fine imposed in accordance with the provisions of this Section and a warning that a second violation shall result in the penalty fine and the forfeiture of the permittee's eligibility to apply for and receive an annual special permit for the following year. A second violation of the one hundred thousand pound limit shall result in the penalty fine and the forfeiture of the permittee's eligibility to apply for and receive an annual special permit for the following year. A third violation shall result in the penalty fine and the permanent revocation of the permittee's eligibility to apply for and receive an annual special permit.
- (c) Any owner or operator who has a civil penalty levied against him for a violation of the permitted weight limit of this Section shall be entitled to appeal the penalty in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 32:389.

1	(d) The Department of Transportation and Development, in cooperation with
2	the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of state police, shall
3	promulgate rules and regulations as are necessary, in accordance with the
4	Administrative Procedure Act, to implement the provisions of this Section, subject
5	to oversight by the House and Senate Transportation, Highways and Public Works
6	Committees transportation, highways and public works committees. The office of
7	state police shall be responsible for promulgating rules and regulations regarding
8	enforcement procedures.
9	* * *
10	§387.9. Special permit; vehicles hauling agronomic or horticultural crops
11	Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the secretary
12	shall issue annual special permits to persons who operate vehicles hauling agronomic
13	or horticultural crops in their natural state. Such permits may be issued to either the
14	pulling unit or the trailer contained in the combination which shall have a minimum
15	of eighteen wheels. These permits shall be issued in accordance with the following
16	provisions:
17	* * *
18	(4) The secretary may impose a civil penalty A fine of up to five cents per
19	pound for each violation of the limit established in this Section <u>may be imposed</u> .
20	The secretary, by rule, shall establish procedures for enforcing the provisions of this
21	Section, including a procedure by which persons accused of violations may contest
22	those accusations.
23	* * *
24	§387.16. Special permit; sealed containerized cargo for export; containerboard, kraft
25	liner, and roll pulp; limitations
26	* * *
27	B. The secretary may impose a civil penalty A fine of up to five cents per
28	pound for each violation of the limit established in this Section <u>may be imposed</u> .
29	The secretary may promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the

1	Administrative Procedure Act as are necessary to enforce the provisions of this
2	Section.
3	* * *
4	§387.19. Special permit; bagged rice for export; rules and regulations; Port of Lake
5	Charles
6	A.(1) Provided there are no written objections raised by the Federal Highway
7	Administration, the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development
8	may issue special annual permits for one-way hauls of bagged rice for export within
9	a sixty-mile radius of the Port of Lake Charles. These special permits shall be
10	issued at the truck permit office of the Department of Transportation and
11	Development.
12	(1)(2) The permit shall be issued at the truck permit office of the Department
13	of Transportation and Development.
14	(2) (3) The fee for the permit shall be five hundred dollars annually.
15	(3) (4) The permit may authorize the operation of a vehicle or combination
16	of vehicles with a total gross vehicle weight not to exceed ninety-five thousand
17	pounds. No tandem axle set equipped with low pressure pneumatic tires shall exceed
18	thirty-four thousand pounds on the interstate system or thirty-seven thousand pounds
19	off the interstate system. No tridum axle set equipped with low pressure pneumatic
20	tires shall exceed forty-two thousand pounds on the interstate system or forty-five
21	thousand pounds off the interstate system.
22	(4) (5) The secretary may impose a civil penalty A fine of up to five cents
23	per pound for each violation of the weight limit established by this Section may be
24	imposed.
25	* * *
26	§388. Penalties; payments
27	A.(1) Whoever owns or drives any vehicle or combination of vehicles in
28	violation of any rule, regulation, directive, or requirement of the secretary adopted

1 pursuant to R.S. 32:380 through 385 or in violation of R.S. 32:380 through 385 shall 2 be assessed a penalty fine of one hundred dollars for each violation. 3 4 (3) Each vehicle that is required to stop at a weight enforcement scale location and which fails to stop shall be assessed the following penalty fine: 5 (a) Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than twenty-six 6 7 thousand pounds shall be penalized fined one hundred dollars for failure to stop at 8 a weight scale. This penalty fine shall be in addition to any other penalties fines 9 which may be assessed for other violations. 10 (b) Vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of twenty-six thousand 11 pounds or more shall be penalized fined five hundred dollars for failure to stop at a 12 weight scale. This penalty shall be in addition to any other penalties fines which may 13 be assessed for other violations. 14 (4) Any vehicle which inadvertently bypasses weight scales and returns to 15 the scales voluntarily without the assistance of law enforcement shall not be assessed 16 any penalty fine for bypassing the scale. 17 B.(1)(a) Except as provided in Subparagraphs (b) and (c) of this Paragraph, 18 whoever owns or operates any vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation of any 19 rule, regulation, directive, or requirement adopted under R.S. 32:386 or in violation 20 of R.S. 32:386 shall be required to reduce the load to the maximum permissible gross 21 weight and shall be assessed a penalty fine on such weight which exceeds the 22 maximum permissible gross weight as defined by R.S. 32:386 or maximum 23 allowable axle weights, whichever results in the higher fine, in accordance with the 24 following schedule: 25 **OVERWEIGHT** PENALTY FINE 26 **POUNDS** 27 1 to 999 \$10.00 minimum

Page 5 of 17

1¢ per pound in excess of legal limit

2¢ per pound in excess of legal limit

1,000 to 1,999

2,000 to 2,999

28

29

HLS 12RS-354

ORIGINAL
HB NO. 979

	1	3,000 to 3,999	3¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
	2	4,000 to 4,999	4¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
	3	5,000 to 5,999	5¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
,	4	6,000 to 6,999	6¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
	5	7,000 to 7,999	7¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
(6	8,000 to 8,999	8¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
,	7	9,000 to 9,999	9¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
	8	10,000 to 10,999	10¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
	9	11,000 and over	11¢ per pound in excess of legal limit
1	0	(b)(i) Any truck hau	aling concrete or construction aggregate

(b)(i) Any truck hauling concrete or construction aggregates shall not be assessed a penalty fine for weight which exceeds the maximum allowable axle weights, if such truck does not also exceed the maximum permissible gross weight as provided in R.S. 32:386 and such truck is not operating on the interstate system.

(ii) Any truck hauling hot mix asphalt which is performing work pursuant to a contract with the state or the governing authority of a parish or municipality shall not be assessed a penalty fine for weight which exceeds the maximum allowable axle weights, if such truck does not also exceed the maximum permissible gross weight as provided in R.S. 32:386 and such truck is not operating on the interstate system.

(iii) Any truck fitted with a compactor body which is engaged in the collecting and hauling of solid waste including residential solid waste, agricultural waste, commercial solid waste, construction or demolition debris, garbage, industrial solid waste, trash, white goods, woodwaste, and yard trash, as defined in the rules and regulations of the Department of Environmental Quality, shall not be assessed a penalty fine for weight which exceeds the maximum allowable axle weights if such truck does not also exceed the maximum permissible gross weight as provided in R.S. 32:386 and 387 and such truck is not operating on the interstate system. Such truck shall not be assessed a penalty fine for exceeding its maximum permissible gross weight, as determined by law or pursuant to issuance of a special permit, if the

waste is wet and the location from which the waste was collected had received measurable precipitation, as recorded by National Weather Service recognized observation stations, within twenty-four hours prior to collection provided the total excess weight is ten percent or less of the truck's maximum permissible gross weight and such truck is not operating on the interstate system. If the total excess weight is greater than ten percent of the truck's maximum permissible gross weight, as determined by law or pursuant to issuance of a special permit, the assessed penalty fine shall be calculated only on the excess weight which is above the ten percent allowance for water weight.

- (c) Prior to assessment of a penalty fine for weight which exceeds the maximum allowable axle weights, the owner or operator is authorized to shift the load to reduce or eliminate such excess axle weight penalties fines as long as no part of the shipment is removed.
- (2) Whoever owns or drives any vehicle or combination of vehicles with a gross weight in excess of its licensed weight but less than or equal to its legal maximum gross weight may be assessed a penalty fine of one hundred dollars and shall be required to increase its license to the weight being carried not to exceed the legal maximum.

19 * * *

(4)(a) Whoever owns any business entity engaged in the sale or shipment of construction aggregates requiring a weigh master, not including asphalt, or transfer sales or shipment from rail, barge, or ship to wholesale stockpiles or inventories within a five-mile radius of the point where the shipment was transferred, who violates, or whose driver or contract driver violates any rule, regulation, directive, or requirement adopted under R.S. 32:386 or violates R.S. 32:386 shall also be assessed a separate penalty fine for each violation in accordance with the schedule set forth in Paragraph B(1) (B)(1) of this Section. However, notwithstanding any other provision of this Chapter or any law to the contrary, any such business, or weigh master thereof, who releases a vehicle that is within the maximum permissible

gross weight limitations for travel on a state highway shall not be assessed any penalty fine when said vehicle is found in violation of gross maximum weight limitations while traveling on any interstate highway. For purposes of enforcing this Subsection, any weights and standards, or state policeman, or law enforcement officer having reason to believe that such owner is in violation of R.S. 32:386 is authorized to enter and go upon, without formal warrant, any vehicle, stand, place, building, or premises, for the purpose of inspecting only the shipping ticket or tickets issued in connection with the particular load found in violation of R.S. 32:386 by any weights and standards, or state policeman, or law enforcement officer in order to determine whether such sales at the origin of shipment contain the amounts represented and are offered for sale or sold in a manner in accordance with law. The discovery of an overweight vehicle after proper weighing shall constitute "reason to believe" for purposes of this Subsection.

* * *

C.(1) Whoever owns or drives any vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation of any rule, regulation, directive, or requirement of the secretary adopted pursuant to R.S. 32:387 or in violation of the terms and conditions of any special permit issued under R.S. 32:387 shall be assessed a penalty fine of one hundred dollars.

(2) Whoever owns or drives a vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation of an overweight special permit shall be assessed a penalty fine for each pound of gross weight in excess of the special permit weight in accordance with the following schedule and may increase the permissible gross weight authorized by the special permit if he shall satisfy any special conditions imposed by the secretary or otherwise shall reduce his load to the maximum weight allowed under his special permit:

Pounds Over Permit Renalty Fine O to 3,000 Pounds Over Permit Penalty Fine 2¢ per pound

Page 8 of 17

1 3,001 to 5,000 3¢ per pound
2 5,001 to 10,000 4¢ per pound
3 10,001 and over \$100 plus 5¢ per pound

- (3) Nothing contained in this Subsection shall authorize the commissioner or any weights and standards or state policeman <u>or law enforcement officer</u> to assess any <u>penalty fine</u> provided for herein for both the failure to possess a required special permit and for operating a vehicle in violation of R.S. 32:386 when arising out of the same activity, and to this extent the <u>penalties fines</u> provided for in this Subsection shall not be cumulative in nature.
- D. Whoever owns or drives any vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation of R.S. 32:387(F) shall be assessed a penalty fine of twenty-five dollars.
- E. Whoever owns or drives a vehicle or combination of vehicles without a proper escort when such escort is required by a special permit shall be assessed a penalty fine of one hundred dollars, and the vehicle or combination of vehicles shall be impounded until a proper escort is secured by the permittee.
- F. Payments for penalties imposed by the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services, shall be remitted to the Transportation Trust Fund. However, any payments for citations for weight limit violations on parish roads in a parish shall be paid to the public works department of said parish.
- G.(1) All such penalties collected by the commissioner shall be paid into the state treasury on or before the twenty-fifth day of each month following their collection and, in accordance with Article VII, Section 9 of the Constitution of Louisiana, shall be credited to the Bond Security and Redemption Fund. However, after a sufficient amount of the penalties collected by the commissioner is allocated from the fund to pay all obligations secured by the full faith and credit of the state within any fiscal year, the treasurer shall pay an amount equal to the fees paid into the Bond Security and Redemption Fund pursuant to this Paragraph into the Transportation Trust Fund created under Article VII, Section 27 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

1	(2) The Department of Public Safety and Corrections, public safety services,
2	shall keep a set of books showing from whom every dollar is paid and for what
3	purpose. It also shall keep in its file vouchers or receipts for all monies paid out.
4	The disposition of fines collected pursuant to R.S. 32:380 through 388.1 and
5	390, or any regulation adopted thereto, shall be made in accordance with this
6	Subsection:
7	(1) An amount equal to twenty percent of total fines and penalties received
8	each month shall be deposited into the treasury of the parish in which the violation
9	occurred for deposit into the Criminal Court Fund for that particular parish to pay for
10	all costs of issuance and prosecution the alleged violations of R.S. 32:380 through
11	388.1 and 390, or any regulation adopted thereto.
12	(2) All monies remaining after satisfying the requirements of Paragraph (1)
13	of this Subsection shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall deposit such
14	monies are necessary for the requirements of the Bond Security and Redemption
15	Fund, and thereafter deposit all remaining monies into the Transportation Trust Fund
16	for distribution to the state police for traffic control purposes.
17	(3) Any entity collecting fines and penalties for violations of R.S. 32:380
18	through 388.1 and 390, or any regulation adopted thereto, shall keep a set of books
19	showing from whom every dollar is paid and for what purpose. It also shall keep in
20	its file vouchers or receipts for all monies paid out.
21	§388.1. Penalties; multiple violations
22	Whoever owns or drives any vehicle or combination of vehicles in violation
23	of two or more of the provisions of this Part at any one time shall be assessed the
24	greater or the greatest of the penalties fines, in the full amount of the penalty fines.
25	The commissioner is hereby authorized to promulgate rules and regulations to
26	provide that in addition to assessment of the greater or greatest penalty fines, the
27	owner or driver shall be assessed a penalty fine not to exceed ten dollars for each
28	other violation committed at the same time; however, such rules and regulations shall

only be promulgated provided the Federal Highway Administration initiates official

28

29

1	sanctions which would result in the loss of National Highway System apportionment
2	or other federal funds should such penalties fines for multiple violations not be
3	provided.
4	§389. Weights and standards police; enforcement procedure; payment and
5	collection procedures; administrative review Enforcement and collection
6	<u>procedures</u>
7	A. The weights and standards police force and the state police shall have
8	concurrent Any law enforcement officer shall have authority to enforce the
9	provisions of R.S. 32:380 through 388.1 and R.S. 32:390.
10	B.(1) Any weights and standards police officer law enforcement officer
11	having reason to believe that any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds or is in
12	violation of the provisions of R.S. 32:380 through R.S. 32:386 or R.S. 32:388.1
13	through R.S. 32:390, or the terms and conditions of a special permit issued under
14	R.S. 32:387 or regulations of either the Department of Transportation and
15	Development or the Department of Public Safety and Correction, public safety
16	services, adopted pursuant to this Part, is authorized to stop such vehicle or
17	combination of vehicles and to inspect, measure, or weigh such vehicle, either by
18	means of portable or stationary scales, or to require that such vehicle be driven to the
19	nearest available location equipped with facilities to inspect, measure, or weigh such
20	vehicle.
21	(1) (2) Any state policeman law enforcement officer having reason to believe
22	that any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds or is in violation of the
23	provisions of R.S. 32:380 through R.S. 32:386 or R.S. 32:388.1 through R.S. 32:390,
24	or the terms and conditions of a special permit issued under R.S. 32:387 or
25	regulations adopted pursuant to this Part is authorized to stop such vehicle or
26	combination of vehicles and to inspect or measure such vehicle or to require that
27	such vehicle be driven to the nearest available location equipped with facilities to

inspect or measure such vehicle, provided that any state policeman having reason to

believe that any vehicle or combination of vehicles exceeds or is in violation of the

provisions of R.S. 32:386, any overweight special permit as provided in R.S. 32:387, or the regulations adopted pursuant thereto, may escort such vehicle to the nearest permanent or portable scale operated by the weights and standards police force, where a weights and standards police officer shall weigh such vehicle and if such vehicle is overweight, is in violation of an overweight special permit, or the department's or secretary's regulations adopted pursuant thereto, shall issue a violation ticket in accordance with Subsection C of this Section.

C.(1) Whenever any carrier, common carrier, contract carrier, private carrier, transport vehicle, or driver is found in violation of any provision of this Chapter, the commissioner shall send the responsible party a "Notice of Violation, Proposed Finding and Proposed Civil Penalty", hereafter referred to as a "notice of violation", within thirty calendar days of the violation. A citation issued pursuant to R.S. 32:380 through 388.1 and R.S. 32:390, or any regulation adopted thereto, shall be disposed of in accordance with R.S. 32:398.2.

(2)(a) Each notice of violation shall clearly indicate if a monetary penalty is assessed for the violation or if the notice of violation is only a warning. When a monetary penalty is assessed, each notice of violation shall be sent to the responsible party by certificate of mailing. Such notice of violation shall also contain notice that the responsible party shall have forty-five calendar days from the date of issuance of the notice of violation to either pay the monetary penalty for the violation or to request, in writing, an administrative hearing to review the notice of violation. When the amount of the civil penalty is negotiated between the commissioner and the responsible party, the commissioner shall send written notification to the responsible party of the amount of the negotiated civil penalty within thirty calendar days of the date of the final negotiation. Such payment shall be made by certified check, money order, or credit card. If made by credit card, the payment shall be deemed received by the commissioner when tendered and an approval code is obtained from the credit eard company or credit card processor.

(b) The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, subject to oversight by the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways and public works as are necessary regarding the administrative hearing, including but not limited to rules and regulations regarding notification and the procedure for requesting a hearing provided such rules shall not conflict with the provisions of R.S. 32:388.1.

(3) If the commissioner fails to issue the notice of violation to the responsible party within thirty calendar days of the violation in accordance with the provisions of this Section, the violation shall be dismissed. However, the commissioner shall be granted an additional sixty calendar days to send the responsible party a notice of violation in accordance with the provisions of this Section if he experiences a data system failure caused by either an act of God or an intentional act of sabotage.

(4) Any appeal of the findings of the administrative law judge shall be filed in a state district court with proper venue over the matter.

D.(1) If a carrier is determined to be the responsible party for a notice of violation by the commissioner and, if such carrier fails to pay the assessed penalty within forty-five calendar days of issuance of the notice of violation, or in the case of an administrative hearing, the responsible party fails to pay the assessed fine within thirty calendar days of receiving a notice of final judgment from the administrative law judge, the outstanding penalty amount shall be posted on the commissioner's official web site. The outstanding penalty amount for such responsible party shall continue to appear on the web site until all fines and fees are paid in full. The commissioner shall transmit the vehicle identification number of the offending vehicle for which the notice of violation was written to the office of motor vehicles. The office of motor vehicles shall not renew the registration of the offending vehicle until all fines and fees associated with the notice of violation have been paid in full. Within seven calendar days of receiving documentation from the responsible party that all fines and fees have been paid in full, the commissioner

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

shall remove the posting of the notice of violation from his web site. Additionally, upon payment of all fines and fees associated with the notice of violation, the office of motor vehicles shall immediately authorize renewal of the vehicle's registration. Such payment shall be made by certified check, money order, or credit card. If made by credit card, the payment shall be deemed received by the commissioner when tendered and an approval code is obtained from the credit card company or credit card processor.

(2) If the driver of a motor vehicle is found to be the responsible party for a notice of violation by the commissioner, the driver shall be responsible for the payment of all fines and fees associated with issuance of the notice of violation. Such payment shall be made by certified check, money order, or credit card. If made by credit card, the payment shall be deemed received by the commissioner when tendered and an approval code is obtained from the credit card company or credit card processor. If the commissioner fails to receive payment within forty-five calendar days of issuance of the notice of violation, or in the case of an administrative hearing, the responsible party fails to pay the assessed penalty within thirty calendar days of receiving a notice of final judgment from the administrative law judge, the commissioner shall transmit the driver's license number to the office of motor vehicles. Upon receipt of the driver's license number, the office of motor vehicles shall immediately notify the driver, by first class mail, that his driver's license shall be suspended thirty calendar days after the date of mailing the notice unless all fines and fees associated with the notice of violation or final judgment from the administrative law judge are paid in full together with notice of the imposition of a fifty-dollar fee by the office of motor vehicles to cover its administrative costs. The driver's license shall remain suspended until all fines and fees associated with the notice of violation or final judgment from the administrative law judge and the fifty-dollar fee for the office of motor vehicles are paid in full. Upon payment of all fines and fees, the office of motor vehicles shall immediately authorize the reinstatement of the driver's license.

29

1	(3) Motor carriers shall not be responsible for driver violations.
2	E. (1) The commissioner and any law enforcement officer working for the
3	commissioner Law enforcement officers shall be prohibited from seizing a motor
4	vehicle or the registration license plate of a motor vehicle for failing to pay a fine for
5	a notice of violation.
6	(2) In the event a motor vehicle for which a notice of violation citation has
7	been issued is subsequently sold, the new owner of such vehicle shall not be
8	responsible for any outstanding fines or fees associated with a notice of violation the
9	citation. The new owner of the motor vehicle shall present proper documentation to
10	the commissioner evidencing the lawful transfer of ownership.
11	F. During a state of emergency declared by the governor, the commissioner
12	shall be granted an additional sixty calendar days to send the responsible party a
13	notice of violation in accordance with the provisions of this Section. Such extension
14	of time shall terminate not later than sixty days from the date the state of emergency
15	ends.
16	G. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Section, any member of the armed
17	forces, who is in uniform or presents an order for duty and who is operating a
18	military vehicle in the line of duty in violation of any provision of R.S. 32:380
19	through R.S. 32:387, or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto, shall not be
20	required to pay the penalty assessed, nor shall such member be required to surrender
21	his Louisiana driver's license. However, the owner of the vehicle or the federal
22	government shall pay the penalty within thirty days.
23	H. The failure of any vehicle or combination of vehicles to stop at a weigh
24	facility may be excused if stopping the vehicle or combination of vehicles creates a
25	serious traffic hazard. The commissioner shall promulgate rules under the provisions
26	of the Administrative Procedure Act to implement the provisions of this Subsection.
27	Such rules shall define "serious traffic hazard" and shall authorize the use of green

traffic signal lights to allow vehicles to pass the weigh facility at such times as

vehicles have accumulated on the entrance ramp to the weigh facility to the extent

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

19

20

21

22

HB NO. 979
that the vehicles present a traffic hazard. Rules previously adopted by the
department shall remain in full force and effect until such time as the commissioner
promulgates rules pursuant to this Subsection. Rules adopted hereunder shall be
subject to oversight by the House and Senate committees on transportation, highways
and public works.
* * *
§392. Impounding of vehicles; prohibitions
A.(1) Upon discovery of any vehicle operated in violation of this Chapter,
the vehicle shall not be impounded but shall be directed to and followed by the
weights and standards police officer or state policeman law enforcement officer to
the nearest appropriate place suitable for unloading to its licensed gross weight or
maximum size requirements as provided in this Chapter and storage of said product
to preserve it for its intended use in commerce and in either case shall be detained
or unloaded at the expense and responsibility of the owner or driver. The

18 * * *

Section 3. R.S. 32:388(G) is hereby repealed in their entirety.

387 prior to the final disposition of the violation ticket.

Section 4. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to the disposition of a notice of violation issued prior to January 1, 2013, and shall only apply to violations occurring on or after January 1, 2013.

commissioner A law enforcement body shall not detain or impound any vehicle

issued a violation ticket for any violation of the provisions of R.S. 32:380 through

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

Howard HB No. 979

Abstract: Provides that tickets issued to violators of state law or regulation pertaining to overweight, overwidth, and oversize vehicles shall be disposed of as a traffic ticket.

<u>Present law</u> provides that violations of laws, rules, or regulations pertaining to the size, width, or load of a vehicle or any special permit issued to a vehicle or load shall be a civil violation issued by a state policeman or weights and standards officer.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides violations of laws, rules, or regulations pertaining to the size, width, or load of a vehicle or any special permit issued to a vehicle or load shall be a traffic violation issued by any law enforcement officer.

<u>Present law</u> provides that violations of laws, rules, or regulations pertaining to the size, width, or load of a vehicle or any special permit issued to a vehicle or load shall be issued a notice of violation with a civil penalty being assessed by the deputy secretary of DPS&C, public safety services, subject to review in an administrative hearing by an administrative law judge. Any decision by an administrative law judge can be appealed in a state district court with proper venue over the matter.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that violations of laws, rules, or regulations pertaining to the size, width, or load of a vehicle or any special permit issued to a vehicle or load shall be disposed of as any other traffic ticket.

<u>Present law</u> provides that violations of laws, rules, or regulations pertaining to the size, width, or load of a vehicle or any special permit issued to a vehicle or load shall be issued a notice of violation with a civil penalty being assessed by the deputy secretary of DPS&C, public safety services.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that violations of laws, rules, or regulations pertaining to the size, width, or load of a vehicle or any special permit issued to a vehicle or load shall be issued a traffic ticket and fine by a court of law.

<u>Present law</u> provides that payments for penalties imposed by DPS&C, public safety services, shall be remitted to the Transportation Trust Fund. However, any payments for citations for weight limit violations on parish roads in a parish shall be paid to the public works department of said parish.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that the disposition of fines collected for violations of laws, rules, or regulations pertaining to the size, width, or load of a vehicle or any special permit issued to a vehicle or load shall be made as follows:

- (1) An amount equal to 20% of total fines and penalties received each month shall be deposited into the treasury of the parish in which the violation occurred for deposit into the Criminal Court Fund for that particular parish to pay for all costs of issuance and prosecution the alleged violations of R.S. 32:380 through 388.1 and 390, or any regulation adopted thereto.
- (2) All monies remaining after satisfying the requirements of <u>proposed law</u> shall be transmitted to the state treasurer, who shall deposit such monies are necessary for the requirements of the Bond Security and Redemption Fund, and thereafter deposit all remaining monies into the Transportation Trust Fund for distribution to the state police for traffic control purposes.

<u>Proposed law</u> provides that provisions of <u>proposed law</u> shall not apply to the disposition of a notice of violation issued prior to Jan. 1, 2013, and shall only apply to violations occurring on or after Jan. 1, 2013.

(Amends R.S. 32:387.6(4), 387.7(A)(4), 387.9(4), 387.16(B), 387.19(A), 388(A)(1), (3), and (4), (B)(1), (2), and (4)(a), (C), (D), (E), and (F), 388.1, 389, and 392(A)(1); Repeals R.S. 32:388(G))