

Res. No. 981

Resolution calling on the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to pass and the President to sign H.R. 1390 entitled “The Bus Uniform Standards and Enhanced Safety Act of 2011,” which would seek to strengthen the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the motor carrier industry.

By Council Members Chin, Brewer, James, Gentile, James, Koslowitz, Lander, Mendez, Recchia, Vacca, Vann, Williams, Jackson and Koo

Whereas, According to the American Bus Association’s 2010 Motorcoach Census Update, more than 35,000 buses transported over 750 million passengers and traveled more than 58 billion passenger across the United States miles in 2009; and

Whereas, Between 1998 and 2007, The National Transportation Safety Board (“NTSB”) investigated bus crashes which killed 255 passengers and left over 1,000 injured; and

Whereas, On March 12, 2011, a bus accident took place in the Bronx, resulting in the death of fifteen passengers and over a dozen other injuries; and

Whereas, Investigations have revealed that the bus driver involved in the Bronx crash, Mr. Ophadell Williams, was allegedly driving with a fraudulent commercial driver’s license (“CDL”); and

Whereas, On March 24 and 25 of 2011, fifteen commercial bus drivers in New York State were arrested for allegedly obtaining fraudulent CDLs while using aliases; and

Whereas, On May 9, 2011, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the arrest of 46 individuals, in and around New York City, who had fraudulently obtained commercial driver licenses, including six who were commercial bus drivers; and

Whereas, These recent incidents highlighted the need for increased scrutiny upon individuals who apply for jobs as commercial bus drivers and also the procedures for obtaining a

CDL; and

Whereas, Currently there is legislation pending in Congress, H.R. 1390, which would strengthen the U.S. Department of Transportation's ("USDOT") ability to regulate the motorcoach industry and establish minimum training requirements for drivers seeking a CDL and would require USDOT to review states' current requirements for earning a CDL; and

Whereas, According to the American Bus Association, there is currently a lack of regulatory procedures to determine the validity of a bus driver's CDL; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls upon the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate to pass and the President to sign H.R. 1390 entitled "The Bus Uniform Standards and Enhanced Safety Act of 2011," which would seek to strengthen the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the motor carrier industry.

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LS #2630
July 21, 2011
12:11pm