

BOILERPLATE REPORT FOR ACT 252 OF 2014; SECTION 741

The FY 2015 appropriation for Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Act No. 252, Public Acts of 2014, has a requirement in Section 741 which reads:

By December 1, 2014, the department shall submit a report to the senate and house appropriations subcommittees on transportation and the senate and house fiscal agencies on the need, feasibility, and cost of increasing the safety standard for transit buses procured by Michigan transit agencies by requiring a federally approved rollover test standard.

This report is MDOT's response to the requirement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) was established in U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) with a mission to reduce crashes, injuries and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. The FMCSA issues Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) which are applicable to buses. The bus specifications which MDOT writes and the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) includes in the request for proposals (RFP) to bus vendors, require buses to comply with the FMVSS. Our RFPs also require vendors to complete a pre-award FMVSS compliance certification and keep it on file for future review by the Federal Transit Administration.

Among the standards which MDOT requires transit buses to meet is FMVSS Standard No. 220 "School Bus Rollover Protection" which establishes performance requirements for bus rollover protection, including standards for testing. MDOT's evaluation of vendor responses to RFPs includes a check for compliance with Standard No. 220. Therefore, MDOT is currently in compliance with the boilerplate language in that we use the only available federally-adopted rollover test standard. We cannot determine the need, feasibility and cost of adhering to any other federal standard since none exists.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Past compliance by bus vendors with FMVSS Standard No. 220 demonstrates that testing for rollover protection, as prescribed by the federal standard, is feasible. Having conducted the School Bus Rollover Protection Test FMVSS 220 on multiple body models from year 2001 to year 2012, a bus manufacturer has reported that testing throughout the period resulted in an average cost per test of \$4,125.00.

Prepared by:
Michigan Department of Transportation
Office of Passenger Transportation
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