

Act No. 240
Public Acts of 2017
Approved by the Governor
December 20, 2017
Filed with the Secretary of State
December 21, 2017
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 21, 2018

STATE OF MICHIGAN
99TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

Introduced by Rep. Lauwers

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4807

AN ACT to amend 1921 PA 246, entitled “An act to regulate the service, rates, fares and charges of carriers by water within this state,” by amending sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 (MCL 460.201, 460.202, 460.203, 460.204, 460.205, and 460.206) and by adding section 7.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 1. Any persons, firms, and corporations engaged in the transportation of freight, passengers, or express, by water, wholly within this state, shall, within 30 days after this act takes effect, make and file, in the form prescribed, its schedule of rates, fares, and charges for the carrying of freight, passengers, and express. The filed rates, fares, and charges continue in force until superseded by other schedules filed with the department of state police as provided in this section. The department of state police shall make a decision on all filed rates, fares, and charges within 30 days after the rates, fares, and charges are filed. The department of state police may, either upon request or upon its own motion, suspend the operation of any filed rate, fare, charge, or tariff for a period not exceeding 30 days. If a filed rate, fare, charge, or tariff is suspended by the department of state police, the department shall give the interested carrier immediate notice of the suspension and shall, within 10 days from the date of the suspension, set a hearing date not more than 20 days from the date of the suspension. The department of state police shall give notice of the hearing date to the carrier and to other interested persons. After the hearing, the department of state police shall set the rate, fare, charge, or tariff in the matter complained of, and that rate, fare, charge, or tariff continues to be the legal rate, fare, charge, or tariff in force until superseded as provided by law. Any ferry company operating within any municipality under an agreement with that municipality is not affected either as to fares or as to operation by this act.

Sec. 2. Except as otherwise provided in section 7, the department of state police may examine and audit any and all books, accounts, records, and papers of a carrier by water. A carrier by water shall furnish to the department of state police, its proper officers, and employees, any and all data in relation to its investment, income, operating expenses, and other statistical data as the department may require.

Sec. 3. The department of state police is authorized, empowered, and directed to make all necessary rules and regulations governing its investigations of the affairs of carriers by water and to prescribe the form of all reports required from those carriers.

Sec. 4. If any complaint is made to the department of state police by any person, firm, or corporation against any rate, fare, charge, or tariff of any carrier by water within this state, or against any rule or regulation of a carrier by water or against the neglect, failure, or refusal of a carrier by water to make, observe, or perform any rate, fare, charge, or tariff, or any rule or regulation, the department of state police shall investigate the matter, and the department may regulate the performance or observance of any rate, fare, charge, or tariff, and any rule or regulation, and may require the carrier to observe the rate, fare, charge, or tariff and any rule or regulation. A carrier by water is in all cases

entitled to reasonable notice and an opportunity to be heard on an investigation before any rate, fare, charge, or tariff, or any rule or regulation is prescribed, established, or imposed by the department of state police as provided in this section, and if any rate, fare, charge, or tariff, or any rule or regulation is prescribed, established, or imposed by the department of state police, the carrier by water shall observe and obey the same.

Sec. 5. A carrier by water may appeal any order or decision made by the department of state police prescribing or affecting any rate, fare, charge, or tariff, or any rule or regulation of any carrier by water within this state, in the same manner as is now provided by law for the appeal of orders under section 26 of 1909 PA 300, MCL 462.26.

Sec. 6. Any person, firm, or corporation violating any of the provisions of this act, or any order of the department of state police made pursuant to this act, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00 for each violation. Any officer or director of any corporation violating the provisions of this act, or any of the orders of the department of state police made pursuant to this act, shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$100.00 for each violation, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 3 months, or by both fine and punishment, in the discretion of the court.

Sec. 7. (1) The department of state police shall compare the proposed rate, fare, charge, or tariff of any carrier by water that primarily transports vehicles directly between 2 state highways to the rates, fares, charges, or tariffs charged by comparable carriers by water. The department of state police shall automatically approve any proposed rate, fare, charge, or tariff of any carrier by water that primarily transports vehicles directly between 2 state highways that is less than the rates, fares, charges, or tariffs charged by comparable carriers by water. The department of state police shall not audit any carrier by water whose proposed rate, fare, charge, or tariff is less than the rates, fares, charges, or tariffs charged by comparable carriers by water. The department of state police may approve a proposed rate, fare, charge, or tariff of any carrier by water that primarily transports vehicles directly between 2 state highways that is more than the rates, fares, charges, or tariffs charged by comparable carriers by water if, based on justification submitted by the carrier by water, the department of state police finds the rate, fare, charge, or tariff is reasonable. If the department of state police determines that a rate, fare, charge, or tariff is not reasonable, the department of state police shall, within 15 days after that determination, meet with the carrier by water and explain the reasons for its determination. Any carrier by water that meets the criteria of this section is deemed an instrumentality of the state.

(2) This section does not apply to a carrier by water that is operating within any municipality under an agreement with that municipality.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days after the date it is enacted into law.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



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Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Secretary of the Senate

Approved

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Governor