

SENATE BILL REPORT

HJM 4014

As Reported by Senate Committee On:
Transportation, March 16, 2009

Brief Description: Requesting that House Resolution 6922 or substantially similar legislation be enacted to help stabilize the trucking industry.

Sponsors: Representatives Kessler, DeBolt and Orcutt.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/27/09, 94-0.

Committee Activity: Transportation: 3/16/09 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Haugen, Chair; Marr, Vice Chair; Becker, Berkey, Delvin, Eide, Jarrett, Kauffman, Kilmer, King, Ranker and Sheldon.

Staff: Wendy Malkin (786-7434)

Background: H.R. 6922 was introduced in the United States House of Representatives in the 110th Congress. H.R. 6922 would amend the Small Business Act to authorize disaster loans for eligible small businesses that have suffered or are likely to suffer substantial economic injury due to increases in the price of gasoline or diesel fuel. Small businesses eligible for the loans are those engaged in the transportation of persons or property for hire.

The loans are limited to \$250,000. The Small Business Administration (SBA) may waive the \$250,000 limit if the applicant is a major source of employment in the surrounding area as determined by the SBA.

Summary of Bill: The Washington State Senate and House of Representatives request that the United States Congress enact H.R. 6922 or substantially similar legislation. The purpose of the bill or similar legislation is to amend the Small Business Act to provide low-interest loans to small businesses providing transportation services in order to assist these businesses in dealing with high motor fuel prices.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Congressman Baird introduced H.R. 6922 to assist the trucking industry, especially those in the logging industry, cope with the high price of motor vehicle fuel. Truckers are having a very difficult time making a living with high and unpredictable fuel costs. It is important that truckers remain in business and keep their equipment safe.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Representative Kessler, prime sponsor.