

the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §102(a), Dec. 20, 1995, 109 Stat. 804, 806, effective Jan. 1, 1996.

Subchapter II of chapter 105 of this title, referred to in subsec. (h)(2), was omitted in the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §102(a), Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 804, effective Jan. 1, 1996.

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in sections 11341 and 11342 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

#### AMENDMENTS

1996—Subsec. (c)(4). Pub. L. 104-287, §5(37)(A), substituted “January 1, 1996” for “the effective date of this section”.

Subsec. (g). Pub. L. 104-287, §5(37)(B), substituted “January 1, 1996,” for “the effective date of this section”.

Subsec. (h)(1). Pub. L. 104-287, §5(37)(C), substituted “December 31, 1995” for “the day before the effective date of this section”.

Subsec. (h)(2). Pub. L. 104-287, §5(37)(D), substituted “December 31, 1995” for “the day before such effective date”.

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 1, 1996, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 104-88, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 of this title.

#### ABOLITION OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

Interstate Commerce Commission abolished by section 101 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 of this title.

### § 14303. Consolidation, merger, and acquisition of control of motor carriers of passengers

(a) APPROVAL REQUIRED.—The following transactions involving motor carriers of passengers subject to jurisdiction under subchapter I of chapter 135 may be carried out only with the approval of the Board:

(1) Consolidation or merger of the properties or franchises of at least 2 carriers into one operation for the ownership, management, and operation of the previously separately owned properties.

(2) A purchase, lease, or contract to operate property of another carrier by any number of carriers.

(3) Acquisition of control of a carrier by any number of carriers.

(4) Acquisition of control of at least 2 carriers by a person that is not a carrier.

(5) Acquisition of control of a carrier by a person that is not a carrier but that controls any number of carriers.

(b) STANDARD FOR APPROVAL.—The Board shall approve and authorize a transaction under this section when it finds the transaction is consistent with the public interest. The Board shall consider at least the following:

(1) The effect of the proposed transaction on the adequacy of transportation to the public.

(2) The total fixed charges that result from the proposed transaction.

(3) The interest of carrier employees affected by the proposed transaction.

The Board may impose conditions governing the transaction.

(c) DETERMINATION OF COMPLETENESS OF APPLICATION.—Within 30 days after the date on which an application is filed under this section, the Board shall either publish a notice of the application in the Federal Register or reject the application if it is incomplete.

(d) COMMENTS.—Written comments about an application may be filed with the Board within 45 days after the date on which notice of the application is published under subsection (c).

(e) DEADLINES.—The Board shall conclude evidentiary proceedings by the 240th day after the date on which notice of the application is published under subsection (c). The Board shall issue a final decision by the 180th day after the conclusion of the evidentiary proceedings. The Board may extend a time period under this subsection; except that the total of all such extensions with respect to any application shall not exceed 90 days.

(f) EFFECT OF APPROVAL.—A carrier or corporation participating in or resulting from a transaction approved by the Board under this section, or exempted by the Board from the application of this section pursuant to section 13541, may carry out the transaction, own and operate property, and exercise control or franchises acquired through the transaction without the approval of a State authority. A carrier, corporation, or person participating in the approved or exempted transaction is exempt from the antitrust laws and from all other law, including State and municipal law, as necessary to let that person carry out the transaction, hold, maintain, and operate property, and exercise control or franchises acquired through the transaction.

(g) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY.—This section shall not apply to transactions involving carriers whose aggregate gross operating revenues were not more than \$2,000,000 during a period of 12 consecutive months ending not more than 6 months before the date of the agreement of the parties.

(h) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—When the Board approves and authorizes a transaction under this section in which a person not a carrier providing transportation subject to jurisdiction under subchapter I of chapter 135 acquires control of at least 1 carrier subject to such jurisdiction, the person is subject, as a carrier, to the following provisions of this title that apply to the carrier being acquired by that person, to the extent specified by the Board: sections 504(f), 14121-14123, 14901(a), and 14907.

(i) INTERIM APPROVAL.—Pending determination of an application filed under this section, the Board may approve, for a period of not more than 180 days, the operation of the properties sought to be acquired by the person proposing in the application to acquire those properties, when it appears that failure to do so may result in destruction of or injury to those properties or substantially interfere with their future usefulness in providing adequate and continuous service to the public. Transportation provided by a motor carrier under a grant of approval under this subsection is subject to this part.

(j) SUPPLEMENTAL ORDERS.—When cause exists, the Board may issue appropriate orders supplemental to an order made in a proceeding under this section.

(Added Pub. L. 104-88, title I, §103, Dec. 29, 1995, 109 Stat. 897.)

#### PRIOR PROVISIONS

Provisions similar to those in this section were contained in sections 11341, 11343, 11344, 11345a, 11348, 11349, and 11351 of this title prior to the general amendment of this subtitle by Pub. L. 104-88, §102(a).

#### EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 1, 1996, except as otherwise provided in Pub. L. 104-88, see section 2 of Pub. L. 104-88, set out as a note under section 1301 of this title.

### CHAPTER 145—FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

Sec.

- 14501. Federal authority over intrastate transportation.
- 14502. Tax discrimination against motor carrier transportation property.
- 14503. Withholding State and local income tax by certain carriers.
- [14504. Repealed.]
- 14504a. Unified Carrier Registration System plan and agreement.
- 14505. State tax.
- 14506. Identification of vehicles.

#### AMENDMENTS

2005—Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, §§4305(c), 4306(b), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1773, 1774, added items 14504a and 14506.

Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, §4305(a), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1764, as amended by Pub. L. 110-53, title XV, §1537(c), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 467, struck out item 14504 “Registration of motor carriers by a State”, effective Jan. 1, 2008.

#### § 14501. Federal authority over intrastate transportation

(a) MOTOR CARRIERS OF PASSENGERS.—

(1) LIMITATION ON STATE LAW.—No State or political subdivision thereof and no interstate agency or other political agency of 2 or more States shall enact or enforce any law, rule, regulation, standard, or other provision having the force and effect of law relating to—

(A) scheduling of interstate or intrastate transportation (including discontinuance or reduction in the level of service) provided by a motor carrier of passengers subject to jurisdiction under subchapter I of chapter 135 of this title on an interstate route;

(B) the implementation of any change in the rates for such transportation or for any charter transportation except to the extent that notice, not in excess of 30 days, of changes in schedules may be required; or

(C) the authority to provide intrastate or interstate charter bus transportation.

This paragraph shall not apply to intrastate commuter bus operations, or to intrastate bus transportation of any nature in the State of Hawaii.

(2) MATTERS NOT COVERED.—Paragraph (1) shall not restrict the safety regulatory authority of a State with respect to motor vehicles, the authority of a State to impose highway route controls or limitations based on the size or weight of the motor vehicle, or the authority of a State to regulate carriers with regard to minimum amounts of financial responsibility relating to insurance requirements and self-insurance authorization.

(b) FREIGHT FORWARDERS AND BROKERS.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, no State or political subdivision thereof and no intrastate agency or other political agency of 2 or more States shall enact or enforce any law, rule, regulation, standard, or other provision having the force and effect of law relating to intrastate rates, intrastate routes, or intrastate services of any freight forwarder or broker.

(2) CONTINUATION OF HAWAII’S AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this subsection and the amendments made by the Surface Freight Forwarder Deregulation Act of 1986 shall be construed to affect the authority of the State of Hawaii to continue to regulate a motor carrier operating within the State of Hawaii.

(c) MOTOR CARRIERS OF PROPERTY.—

(1) GENERAL RULE.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), a State, political subdivision of a State, or political authority of 2 or more States may not enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision having the force and effect of law related to a price, route, or service of any motor carrier (other than a carrier affiliated with a direct air carrier covered by section 41713(b)(4)) or any motor private carrier, broker, or freight forwarder with respect to the transportation of property.

(2) MATTERS NOT COVERED.—Paragraph (1)—

(A) shall not restrict the safety regulatory authority of a State with respect to motor vehicles, the authority of a State to impose highway route controls or limitations based on the size or weight of the motor vehicle or the hazardous nature of the cargo, or the authority of a State to regulate motor carriers with regard to minimum amounts of financial responsibility relating to insurance requirements and self-insurance authorization;

(B) does not apply to the intrastate transportation of household goods; and

(C) does not apply to the authority of a State or a political subdivision of a State to enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision relating to the regulation of tow truck operations performed without the prior consent or authorization of the owner or operator of the motor vehicle.

(3) STATE STANDARD TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES.—

(A) CONTINUATION.—Paragraph (1) shall not affect any authority of a State, political subdivision of a State, or political authority of 2 or more States to enact or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision, with respect to the intrastate transportation of property by motor carriers, related to—

- (i) uniform cargo liability rules,
- (ii) uniform bills of lading or receipts for property being transported,
- (iii) uniform cargo credit rules,
- (iv) antitrust immunity for joint line rates or routes, classifications, mileage guides, and pooling, or
- (v) antitrust immunity for agent-van line operations (as set forth in section 13907),

if such law, regulation, or provision meets the requirements of subparagraph (B).