

LEGISLATIVE BILL 319

Approved by the Governor March 28, 2005

Introduced by Jensen, 20

AN ACT relating to the Public Service Commission; to amend sections 71-4604.01, 71-4608, and 75-156, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to change provisions relating to manufactured-home seals, recreational-vehicle plans and specifications, and civil penalties; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 71-4604.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-4604.01. (1) (a) Every manufactured home or recreational vehicle manufactured more than four months after May 27, 1975, and before May 1, 1998, which is sold, offered for sale, or leased in this state shall comply with the seal requirements of the state agency responsible for regulation of manufactured homes or recreational vehicles as such requirements existed on the date of manufacture.

(b) Every manufactured home or recreational vehicle manufactured on or after May 1, 1998, which is sold, offered for sale, or leased in this state shall bear a seal issued by the commission certifying that the body and frame design and construction and the plumbing, heating, and electrical systems of such manufactured home or recreational vehicle have been installed in compliance with the standards adopted by the commission, applicable at the time of manufacture. Manufactured homes destined for sale outside the United States shall be exempt from displaying the seal issued by the state if sufficient proof of such delivery is submitted to the commission for review. Recreational vehicles destined for sale or lease outside this state or the United States shall be exempt from displaying the seal issued by the state if sufficient proof of such delivery is submitted to the commission for review. The commission shall issue the recreational-vehicle seal upon an inspection of the plans and specifications for the recreational vehicle or upon an actual inspection of the recreational vehicle during or after construction if the recreational vehicle is in compliance with state standards. The commission shall issue the manufactured-home seal in accordance with the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, ~~as amended~~, 42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq., as such act existed on January 1, 2005. Each seal issued by the state shall remain the property of the commission and may be revoked by the commission in the event of a violation of the conditions of issuance.

(2) The commission shall charge a fee of not less than ten dollars nor more than fifty dollars, as determined annually by the commission after published notice and a hearing, for seals issued by the commission. A seal shall be placed on each living unit within a multifamily manufactured home, and the seal fee assessed for each living unit shall be one-half of the seal fee for a single-family manufactured home. Inspection fees shall be paid for all inspections by the commission of manufacturing plants located outside of the State of Nebraska. Such fees shall consist of a reimbursement by the manufacturer of actual travel, personnel, and inspection expenses only and shall be paid prior to any issuance of seals.

(3) The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations governing the submission of plans and specifications of manufactured homes and recreational vehicles. A person who submits recreational-vehicle plans and specifications to the commission for review and approval shall be charged for engineering services of the commission provided for performing the review of the plans and specifications and related functions at a rate of not less than fifteen dollars per hour nor more than fifty dollars per hour as determined ~~by rule and regulation~~ annually by the commission after published notice and hearing based on the number of hours of review time as follows:

- (a) New model, one hour;
- (b) Quality control manual, two hours;
- (c) Typicals, one-half hour;
- (d) Revisions, three-fourths hour;
- (e) Engineering calculations, three-fourths hour;
- (f) Initial package, fifteen hours; and
- (g) Yearly renewal, two hours plus the three-fourths hour for revisions.

(4) The commission shall charge each manufacturer a fee of seventy-five dollars for each inspection of any new recreational vehicle manufactured by such manufacturer and not bearing a seal issued by the State of Nebraska or some reciprocal state.

(5) All fees collected pursuant to the Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles shall be remitted to the State Treasurer for credit to the Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles Cash Fund which is hereby created. Money credited to the fund pursuant to this section shall be used by the commission for the purpose of administering the code. Any money in the Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles Cash Fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Sec. 2. Section 71-4608, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

71-4608. (1) Any person who is in violation of any provision of the Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles regarding a used manufactured home or new or used multifamily manufactured home or recreational vehicle or who manufactures unless destined for sale outside the United States, sells, offers for sale, or leases in this state any used manufactured home or new or used multifamily manufactured home or recreational vehicle manufactured more than four months after May 27, 1975, which does not bear the federal manufactured-home label or the recreational-vehicle seal issued by this state or by a state which has been placed on the reciprocity list as required by the code shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor. Nothing in the Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles shall be construed to require a seal for any recreational vehicle manufactured in this state which is sold or leased outside this state.

(2) ~~Any person who violates any of the provisions enumerated in this section or rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the commission relating to manufactured homes and recreational vehicles shall be liable for a civil penalty not to exceed one thousand dollars for each violation. Each such violation shall constitute a separate violation with respect to each manufactured home or recreational vehicle, except that the maximum penalty shall not exceed one million dollars for any related series of violations occurring within one year from the date of the first violation. No person shall:~~

(a) Manufacture for sale, lease, sell, offer for sale or lease, or introduce, deliver, or import into this state any manufactured home or recreational vehicle which is manufactured on or after the effective date of any applicable standard of the commission which does not comply with such standard;

(b) Fail or refuse to permit access to or copying of records, fail to make reports or provide information, or fail or refuse to permit entry or inspection as provided in section 71-4610;

(c) Fail to furnish notification to the purchaser of any manufactured home of any defect as required by 42 U.S.C. 5414 or to the purchaser of any recreational vehicle as provided in section 71-4616;

(d) Fail to issue a certification required by 42 U.S.C. 5415 or issue a certification to the effect that a manufactured home conforms to all applicable Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, 24 C.F.R. 3280, if such person in the exercise of due care has reason to know that such certification is false or misleading in a material respect;

(e) Fail to establish and maintain such records, make such reports, and provide such information as the commission may reasonably require to enable it to determine whether there is compliance with the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq., or the standards adopted by the commission for recreational-vehicle construction or fail to permit, upon request of a person duly authorized by the commission, inspection of appropriate books, papers, records, and documents relative to determining whether a manufacturer, distributor, or dealer has acted or is acting in compliance with the Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles or with the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5401 et seq.; or

(f) Issue a certification pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5403(a) if such person in the exercise of due care has reason to know that such certification is false or misleading in a material respect.

(3) Subdivision (2)(a) of this section shall not apply to the sale or the offer for sale of any manufactured home or recreational vehicle after the first purchase of it in good faith for purposes other than resale.

(4) Subdivision (2)(a) of this section shall not apply to any person who establishes that he or she did not have reason to know in the exercise of due care that such manufactured home or recreational vehicle was not in conformity with applicable Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, 24 C.F.R. 3280, or the standards adopted by the commission for recreational-vehicle construction or any person who, prior to such first purchase, holds a certificate by the manufacturer or importer of such manufactured home or recreational vehicle to the effect that such manufactured home conforms to all applicable Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards, 24 C.F.R. 3280, or that such recreational vehicle conforms to the standards adopted by the commission for recreational-vehicle construction unless such person knows that such manufactured home or recreational vehicle does not so conform.

(5) Any person or officer, director, or agent of a corporation who willfully or knowingly violates subsection (2) of this section in any manner which threatens the health or safety of any purchaser shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor.

Sec. 3. Section 75-156, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

75-156. (1) In addition to other penalties and relief provided by law, the Public Service Commission may, upon a finding that the violation is proven by clear and convincing evidence, assess a civil penalty of up to ten thousand dollars per day against any person, motor carrier, regulated motor carrier, common carrier, contract carrier, grain dealer, or grain warehouseman for each violation of (a) any provision of sections 75-301 to 75-390 administered by the commission or section 75-126 as such section applies to any person or carrier specified in sections 75-301 to 75-390, (b) a commission order entered pursuant to the Automatic Dialing-Announcing Devices Act, the Emergency Telephone Communications Systems Act, the Intrastate Pay-Per-Call Regulation Act, the Nebraska Telecommunications Regulation Act, the Nebraska Telecommunications Universal Service Fund Act, or the Telecommunications Relay System Act, (c) any term, condition, or limitation of any certificate or permit issued by the commission pursuant to sections 75-301 to 75-390, (d) any rule, regulation, or order of the commission issued under authority delegated to the commission pursuant to sections 75-301 to 75-390, or (e) any rule, regulation, or order of the commission issued under the authority delegated to the commission pursuant to the Grain Dealer Act or the Grain Warehouse Act.

(2) In addition to other penalties and relief provided by law, the Public Service Commission may, upon a finding that the violation is proven by clear and convincing evidence, assess a civil penalty not less than one hundred dollars and not more than one thousand dollars against any jurisdictional utility for each violation of (a) any provision of the State Natural Gas Regulation Act, (b) any rule, regulation, order, or lawful requirement issued by the commission pursuant to the act, (c) any final judgment or decree made by any court upon appeal from any order of the commission, or (d) any term, condition, or limitation of any certificate issued by the commission issued under authority delegated to the commission pursuant to the act. The amount of the civil penalty assessed in each case shall be based on the severity of the violation charged. The commission may compromise or mitigate any penalty prior to hearing if all parties agree. In determining the amount of the penalty, the commission shall consider the appropriateness of the penalty in light of the gravity of the violation and the good faith of the violator in attempting to achieve compliance after notification of the violation is given.

(3) In addition to other penalties and relief provided by law, the Public Service Commission may, upon a finding that the violation is proven by clear and convincing evidence, assess a civil penalty of up to ten thousand dollars per day against any wireless carrier for each violation of the Enhanced Wireless 911 Services Act or any rule, regulation, or order of the commission issued under authority delegated to the commission pursuant to the act.

(4) In addition to other penalties and relief provided by law, the Public Service Commission may, upon a finding that the violation is proven by clear and convincing evidence, assess a civil penalty of up to one thousand dollars against any person for each violation of the Nebraska Uniform Standards for Modular Housing Units Act or the Uniform Standard Code for Manufactured Homes and Recreational Vehicles or any rule, regulation, or order of the commission issued under the authority delegated to the commission pursuant to either act. Each such violation shall constitute a separate violation with respect to each modular housing unit, manufactured home, or recreational vehicle, except that the maximum penalty shall not exceed one million dollars for any related series of violations occurring within one year

from the date of the first violation.

(5) The civil penalty assessed under this section shall not exceed two million dollars per year for each violation except as provided in subsection (4) of this section. The amount of the civil penalty assessed in each case shall be based on the severity of the violation charged. The commission may compromise or mitigate any penalty prior to hearing if all parties agree. In determining the amount of the penalty, the commission shall consider the appropriateness of the penalty in light of the gravity of the violation and the good faith of the violator in attempting to achieve compliance after notification of the violation is given.

~~(5)~~ (6) Upon notice and hearing in accordance with this section and section 75-157, the commission may enter an order assessing a civil penalty of up to one hundred dollars against any person, firm, partnership, limited liability company, corporation, cooperative, or association for failure to file an annual report or, beginning January 1, 2004, pay the fee as required by section 75-116 and as prescribed by commission rules and regulations or for failure to register as required by section 86-125 and as prescribed by commission rules and regulations. Each day during which the violation continues after the commission has issued an order finding that a violation has occurred constitutes a separate offense. Any party aggrieved by an order of the commission under this section may appeal. The appeal shall be in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

~~(6)~~ (7) When any person or party is accused of any violation listed in this section, the commission shall notify such person or party in writing (a) setting forth the date, facts, and nature of each act or omission upon which each charge of a violation is based, (b) specifically identifying the particular statute, certificate, permit, rule, regulation, or order purportedly violated, (c) that a hearing will be held and the time, date, and place of the hearing, (d) that in addition to the civil penalty, the commission may enforce additional penalties and relief as provided by law, and (e) that upon failure to pay any civil penalty determined by the commission, the penalty may be collected by civil action in the district court of Lancaster County.

Sec. 4. Original sections 71-4604.01, 71-4608, and 75-156, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 5. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.