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NMTA Statement on SB 102

Wednesday July 5th, 2023: We have received a lot of feedback about the new State Legislation, SB102.

The New Mexico Trucking Association would like to inform all of its members and people of the traveling public that we were well aware of the legislation and its mission to target Truck Tractors. The New Mexico Trucking Association DID attempt to fight the legislation but did not prevail. Although the bill does attempt to promote a safer, freely flowing movement of interstate traffic, it fails to take into account the practicality of the enforcement and the ability of drivers to do so safely.

The sponsor behind this legislation, Senator George K. Munoz of District 4 (george.munoz@nmlegis.gov), has been attempting to pass similar legislation since 2019. The New Mexico Trucking Association has been working against unfair legislation since 1939 and 2023 was no exception. Although the bill was passed and has become law, The New Mexico Trucking Association would like to highlight the exceptions in this bill to further educate the traveling public and ensure the safety of travelers on the interstate.

EXCEPTIONS:

Section 1. 66-7-376. A.

(2) a truck tractor shall not be moved from the lane until the driver has first ascertained that the movement can be made with safety and then given a signal, not less than the last one hundred feet traveled by the truck

(3) upon a roadway that is divided into three lanes, a truck tractor shall not be driven in the center lane except:

(a) when overtaking and passing another vehicle where the roadway is clearly visible and the center lane is clear of traffic within a safe distance;

(b) in preparation for a left turn; or

(c) where the center lane is at the time allocated exclusively to traffic moving in the direction the truck tractor is proceeding and is sign posted to give notice of the allocation;

(4) a truck tractor shall not be driven in the left lane of a roadway except when overtaking and passing another vehicle; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not prohibit driving in the left lane when traffic conditions, flow or road configuration, such as the potential of merging traffic, require the use of the left lane to maintain safe traffic conditions; and provided further that this paragraph shall not prohibit driving in the left lane of a roadway within the city limits of a municipality or upon a county road as long as such roadway is not part of the national system of interstate and defense highways;

Reminder: This new law does not supersede existing law 66-7-332

"Slow Down or Move Over for Stopped Emergency Vehicles"

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