

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE**TOWING SAFETY TASK FORCE**

**Minutes of the Meeting
December 17, 2018
1:00 p.m., House Hearing Room 5**

Members Present:

Senator Frank Pratt, Vice Chair

Angela Barnett

Major Brian Preston, representing Frank Milstead

Representative Thomas R. Shope, Chair

Representative Diego Espinoza

Jeff Dunn

Steve Stahl

Members Excused:

Senator Lisa Otondo

Staff:

Jason Theodorou, House Research Staff

Kaitlyn Neff, Senate Research Staff

Chairman Shope called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Introduction of Members

Representative Shope requested that Members introduce themselves.

Review of Committee Charge

Jason Theodorou, House Research Staff, explained the charge of the Committee (Attachment A).

Presentation by Angela Barnett

Angela Barnett, Executive Director, Arizona Professional Towing & Recovery Association (APTRA), distributed and explained a PowerPoint presentation titled "Towing Safety" (Attachment B). A YouTube video titled "Move Over AZ" was shown and Ms. Barnett distributed and explained a brochure titled "Move Over Slow Down" (Attachment C). Ms. Barnett spoke in regards to improving the safety of anyone stopped on the shoulder of a roadway.

Towing Safety Presentation by Maj. Brian Preston

Major Brian Preston, Department of Public Safety, testified regarding towing regulation, equipment regulation, varying standards depending on location and creating a safer environment.

Public Testimony

Eric Emmert, Dorn Policy Group, Arizona Professional Towing and Recovery Association, testified regarding colors used by towing operators, increased education for the public and the status of towing operators.

Nick Simonetta, Barnett's Towing, testified regarding the issue of lights when law enforcement is not present and creating a safer environment. Mr. Simonetta answered questions posed by the Committee.

Committee Discussion

The Committee discussed the situation regarding tow trucks, first responders and safety on the roadways.

Recommendations

Representative Shope read the recommendations that were discussed and recommended the exploration of the following ideas (Attachment D):

1. Requiring tow truck operators to complete Tow Training, or a certification program, in addition to Traffic Incident Management Training;
2. Changing the status of tow trucks from commercial motor vehicle carriers to first responders;
3. Permitting tow truck operators to use additional light colors when providing roadside assistance, with provisions to prevent abuse of the lights; and
4. Requiring driver's education programs to teach move-over laws.

The Committee discussed the recommendations.

Senator Pratt moved the Task Force recommend we discuss future meetings and reform this Committee as an Ad Hoc Committee to the Senate President and the Speaker of the House. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Task Force recommend we discuss and add to these comments in a future meeting and reform this committee as an Ad Hoc Committee from the Senate President and the House Speaker. Representative Espinoza seconded the motion. The motion CARRIED with a roll call vote of 7-0-1 (Attachment 1).

Representative Shope recapped the recommendations as follows: that the Towing Safety Task Force explore tow truck operators be required to complete tow training or

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certification program in addition to the traffic incident management training. That the Towing Safety Task Force recommend exploring that the status of tow trucks be changed from commercial motor vehicle carriers to first responders. That the Towing Safety Task Force recommend exploring that tow truck operators be permitted to use additional like colors when providing roadside assistance with provisions to prevent misuse of lights and that the Towing Safety Task Force recommend that driver's education programs be required to teach Move Over laws as well as a recommendation to discuss future meetings and reform this committee as an Ad Hoc committee with permission of the Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

Attached are the forms noting the individuals who submitted a Speaker slip on the agenda items (Attachment E).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shelley Ponce
Committee Secretary

(Audio recordings and attachments are on file in the Secretary of the Senate's Office/Resource Center, Room 115. Audio archives are available at <http://www.azleg.gov>)