

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SHB 1907

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C 392 L 93  
Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Penalizing carriers that exceed estimates for moving household goods.

By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Wineberry, Jones and Lemmon).

House Committee on Transportation  
Senate Committee on Transportation

**Background:** Household goods carriers, moving and storage companies are regulated by the Utilities and Transportation Commission. By WAC rule, when the actual charges exceed the estimate given by a household goods carrier, the moving company is subject to an administrative penalty of \$100/violation if:

- (1) for a long distance move, the actual charge exceeds the estimate by 15 percent; or
- (2) for a local move, (a) the actual charge for the time required to complete the move exceeds the estimate by 25 percent, or (b) the actual charges for other services not directly related to the time charge exceed the estimate for these services by 15 percent.

Because the penalty for underestimating the actual charges is only \$100, some carriers are deliberately submitting a low bid to get the business and then billing the customer for the actual charges. The customer may retrieve his/her possessions by paying 110 percent of the estimate, and settling the difference later.

**Summary:** The monetary penalty the Utilities and Transportation Commission may impose on a household goods carrier who underestimates the actual moving charges is increased from \$100/violation to up to \$1,000/violation when the actual charges exceed the percentages allowed by the commission.

**Votes on Final Passage:**

House	98	0	
Senate	42	0	(Senate amended)

House 96 0 (House concurred)

**Effective:** July 25, 1993