

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Transportation Code - Tour Bus Parking and Loading]

Ordinance amending the San Francisco Transportation Code, Division I, Article 7 by: 1) amending Section 7.2.27 to remove the restriction on the use of white zones by commercial vehicles and clarify that this Section does not apply to Stands established under Division II of the Code and designated for the use of Tour Buses; 2) amending Section 7.2.38 to establish violations for vehicles other than authorized Tour Buses parking or stopping in restricted Tour Bus Stands and for Tour Buses that exceed posted time limits in such Stands; 3) amending Section 7.2.80 to exclude Tour Bus Stands from otherwise applicable parking restrictions imposed in specified use districts on vehicles required to register with the California Public Utilities Commission; and 4) making environmental findings.

Existing Law

Under existing law, the Municipal Transportation Agency ("SFMTA") can establish "Private Bus Stands" to enable private buses, including Tour Buses, to load or unload passengers. The City can issue parking citations for unauthorized vehicles that park in such stands. In addition, under existing law, commercial vehicles are prohibited from using white zones. Finally, vehicles required to be registered with the California Public Utilities Commission are prohibited from parking for more than four hours in specified use districts.

Amendments to Current Law

SFMTA is developing a program to regulate passenger loading and unloading as well as longer term parking by Tour Buses. Under this program, SFMTA may establish Stands designated for use by Tour Buses, including Stands with metered spaces, or alternatively establish a permit program under which Tour Buses would be required to obtain a permit from SFMTA in order to use the designated Stands.

This legislation would make it a violation of the Transportation Code and authorize the City to issue parking citations to unauthorized vehicles that occupy Stands that are restricted to use by Tour Buses either for loading and unloading passengers, or for layover parking by Tour Buses. The ordinance would authorize the City to cite vehicles that do not display a valid Tour Bus Loading and Parking Permit where such vehicles are parked in a Tour Bus Stand or parking space for which a permit is required. In addition, the ordinance would authorize the City to cite vehicles other than Tour Buses that occupy a Stand designated for Tour Buses where no permit is required. The ordinance would also authorize the City to issue parking citations to Tour Buses that exceed the time restrictions posted for Tour Bus Stands. In addition, the legislation would remove the existing prohibition on the use of white zones by commercial vehicles in Section 7.2.27 of the Transportation Code, and clarify that this Section

does not apply to Stands designated for the use of Tour Buses. Finally, this legislation would amend Section 7.2.80 to exclude Stands designated for the use of Tour Buses from the parking restrictions imposed in specified use districts under that Section for vehicles required to be registered with the California Public Utilities Commission.

Background Information

This legislation is intended to help reduce traffic congestion by enabling a regulatory program to manage loading and parking areas for Tour Buses.