

Moving Forward Act Language- PBA Receives Good News

After a Motor Carrier Safety Advisory Committee meeting in April, Pattie Cowley posed the following to Bob Pento, PA Department of Transportation to get clarification on the issue:

"Currently, a bus company can have their own technicians state inspect their vehicles in PA as their technicians are state certified to perform state inspections. I am thinking that the proposed federal Moving Forward Act is addressing those states that do not have a state inspection and only an annual DOT inspection. Language would be key. I suggest the Act would say that "those bus companies located in states without state inspections."

Bob Pento's response: "Thank you for reaching out to the Department regarding proposed congressional legislation surrounding inspections of passenger-carrying CMVs contained in "The Moving Forward Act". Since this proposed legislation is directing the US Secretary of Transportation to release a final rule that considers the impact of continuing to allow self-inspection as a means to satisfy periodic inspection requirements on the safety of passenger carrier operations, and that has not yet be enacted, it is unclear what the position of the US DOT will be. We can offer that in October of 2008, FMCSA published a Notice of periodic inspection programs indicating that Pennsylvania's inspection program has been determined by FMCSA to be comparable to, or as effective as, the federal periodic inspection program so it is our hope that any final ruling from the US Secretary of Transportation/FMCSA would take our program standards into consideration, including self-inspections since all of our inspectors are state certified and audited. While we cannot state our opposition without seeing the proposed guidelines; we would likely oppose any changes that would weaken PA's safety requirements and the ability for our fleet inspection stations to continue to provide this important function."