

HB 85 -- Emergency Utility Response Permits

SPONSOR: Kelley (127)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass by Consent" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 14 to 0.

This bill requires the Department of Transportation to issue emergency utility response permits that allow motor carriers to transport equipment and infrastructure necessary for repair work immediately following a disaster where utility service has been disrupted. Under exigent circumstances, verbal approval of the operation may be made by the motor carrier compliance supervisor or other designated motor carrier services representative. The motor carriers may operate on state highways and roads at any time on any day to assist utility companies granted a permit.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill will make it easier and quicker in emergencies for utilities to restore utility service for an area struck by a disaster.

Testifying for the bill was Representative Kelley, and Bob Lodestein, Mid Central Contract Services.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.