

HB 2568 -- TAXICAB DRIVERS

SPONSOR: Lant

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Employment Security by a vote of 8 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Committee on Labor and Industrial Relations by a vote of 9 to 0.

This bill excludes companies that lease taxicabs to individuals or that provide dispatching or similar rider referral services for such individuals from the definition of employer for the purposes of this section if the individuals drive a taxicab under a license issued to them by some governmental entity that has established regulations concerning the manner and means by which the driver's results are accomplished.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this clarifies for taxi companies and companies like Uber or Lyft that drivers to whom the company leases vehicles or provides dispatching or similar ride referral services are not employees. Rather, they are independent contractors. It has been difficult for taxi companies because they repeatedly get audited and each time the drivers are found to be independent contractors.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Lant and William George, Kansas City Transportation Group.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.