



INDUSTRY ADVISORY 22-01

AB 2956 Clarifies Household Movers are Exempt from Motor Carrier of Property Permit Requirements

This advisory provides information regarding [AB 2956](#) (Committee on Transportation, Chapter 295, Statutes of 2022), which clarifies that household movers permitted by the [Bureau of Household Goods and Services \(Bureau\)](#) are exempt from motor carrier of property registration with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).¹

AB 2956 (COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION, CHAPTER 295, STATUTES OF 2022)

Effective January 1, 2023, AB 2956 amends Vehicle Code (VC) § 34601 (b) to recognize a Bureau permitted household mover as exempt from permit requirements under the Motor Carriers of Property Permit Act.

To qualify for the exemption, the permitted mover must:

- Have a valid household movers permit issued by the Bureau, AND
- Be transporting used household goods, OR
- Be transporting used office, store, and institution furniture and fixtures under its valid Bureau issued household mover permit.

Please note: Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code [§ 19236](#), every household mover must display their Cal-T (permit) number on all their vehicles. The Bureau strongly encourages any compliance check of a household moving vehicle to include verifying the Cal-T number is valid through the Bureau's [license search](#). A valid permit will show a Carrier Status of "Active."

BACKGROUND

The [Motor Carriers of Property Permit Act](#) requires any motor carrier of property to obtain a motor carrier permit from the DMV. Vehicle Code [§ 34601 \(b\)](#) defines a "motor carrier of property" as any person who operates any commercial motor vehicle, as defined, to transport property for compensation. Subdivision (a) exempts household goods carriers who are permitted by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to transport household goods from the DMV motor carrier of property permit requirement.

On July 1, 2018, SB 19 (Hill, Chapter 421, Statutes of 2017) transferred administration of the [Household Movers Act](#) (Act) from the PUC to the Bureau, but VC § 34601 was not updated to reflect the transfer. Bureau permit holders report law enforcement do not recognize Bureau issued permits as qualifying for the DMV motor carrier of property permit exemption.

QUESTIONS

The highest priority of the Bureau in exercising its licensing, regulatory, and disciplinary functions under the Act is protection of the public. If you have any questions about this advisory, please contact the Bureau at (916) 999-2041.

¹ Business and Professions Code (BPC) [§ 19225.5 \(h\)](#) defines a "household mover" as "every corporation or person, their lessees, trustee, receivers, or trustees appointed by any court whatsoever, engaged in the permitted or unpermitted transportation for compensation or hire as a business by means of a motor vehicle or motor vehicles being used in the transportation of used household goods and personal effects over any public highway in this state. A broker, as defined in subdivision (a), shall be considered a household mover. The Legislature intends "household mover" to have the same meaning as "household goods carrier" in former Section 5109 of the Public Utilities Code, as that section read on June 30, 2018."