

## **PSC Announces Motor Carrier “Charter Service” Regulation Changes Coming**

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The Montana Public Service (PSC) announces that, as a result of legislation—SB 140—passed during the legislature, changes have been made to the regulation of motor carriers providing “charter service.” Specifically, those carriers transporting passengers in a vehicle designed to carry between 10 and 26 may have to submit documentation to the PSC in order to lawfully continue this service.

Current carriers answering yes to the below questions may be “grandfathered” into the regulation. This means that if the carrier provides the necessary documentation by October 18, 2011, they will receive a “certificate of public convenience and necessity.” If current carriers do not meet the October 18 deadline and want to continue providing charter service using a vehicle designed to carry less than 27 passengers, they must apply using the PSC’s normal application process to expand their current certificate. New carriers wishing to provide this service should utilize the normal application process as well. Additional information can be found at <http://psc.mt.gov/transportation/> or by calling Eric Dahlgren, PSC Engineering & Transportation Bureau Chief, at 406.444.6186.

1. Do you transport passengers in a motor vehicle designed to carry between 10 and 26 passengers?
2. Do you have a USDOT number?
3. Do you provide charter service? That is, transportation:
  - a) based on a single contract entered into in advance of the transportation,
  - b) paid for with a single fixed charge, not assessed on a per passenger basis, and
  - c) resulting in all passengers traveling together to a specific location with exclusive use of the vehicle.