

## ***So just how are you supposed to be charged for your move???***

Our Association members often ask us to provide information to their customers regarding the rules and regulations — and resulting limitations — surrounding moving in Illinois. The Association is concerned that the moving public be given accurate information so they may make informed decisions about their move.

One of the most frequently asked questions about residential moving concerns when a mover may charge by the hour and when the mover must use weight-mileage rates. Illinois law says hourly rates may be applied for moves where the distance from the point of origin to the final destination is not more than 35 miles **OR** for moves which begin and end wholly within the area covered by the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

Except for the moves that take place wholly within the seven counties specified above, moves exceeding 35 miles in distance (from origin to destination) must be transported on a weight-mileage basis.

### **WHAT ABOUT DISCOUNTS?**

Illinois law prohibits discounts on any intrastate household goods moves, except:

- moves within a rate exempt area (city limits + 10 mile extension of the city limits, *except never if* the move is wholly within a county of 1,000,000 population, such as Cook County)
- moves for a government agency when it is required by law that the move be awarded by competitive bid.

Don't let anyone try to sell you a discounted (or "not to exceed" or "guaranteed firm price" or "throw in the cartons free") move, either. **While it might sound inviting, it is against the law; and reputable movers won't cheat.** Movers are required by law to charge no more and no less than the rates established in their published tariff (except in a bonafide rate-exempt area, as described in the preceding column). Their tariff is their contract with you, and you should be concerned that they live up to the contract. (*Otherwise, wouldn't you wonder what else they were "overlooking"?*)

### **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT OFFICE**

**MOVES:** While prices for office and industrial moves no longer are governed by a tariff, for your protection, anyone performing any transportation service for hire still must be licensed by the Illinois Commerce Commission and carry specific minimum amounts of insurance. Even if you may be purchasing some new furniture or equipment, unless the supplier has a specific license from the Illinois Commerce Commission, they cannot relocate your office while they're delivering your new furniture.

Illinois law provides that anyone who knowingly breaks the law is liable for civil penalties not greater than \$1,000 nor less than \$100 per violation. Any person (including customer) who procures, aids, or abets a motor carrier in such a violation is also liable for the same civil penalty. These civil penalties are in addition to the mover's rebilling the customer for the proper amount.



*We're not quoting chapter and verse merely to scare or annoy you. We want to make sure you are aware of the facts so you won't have any unpleasant surprises at a later date!* Any of these facts can be verified by the Illinois Commerce Commission Transportation Division at 217/785-1772, or contact our Association. We're glad to help.