

SCS SB 89 - COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES

SPONSOR: Libla (Ruth)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 8 to 1.

This bill relates to commercial driver's licenses.

This bill adds test score documents from Missouri commercial third-party tester examiners to an exemption from the prohibition against retaining certain driver's license application materials (Section 302.170, RSMo). The bill specifies that skills and written test waiver documents may be retained for commercial driver's instruction permits in addition to commercial driver's license applicants (Section 302.170).

The bill specifies that commercial driver's instruction permits shall be nonrenewable, and lengthens, from six months to one year, the period for which the permits are valid. This bill increases, from \$5.00 to \$10.00, the fee for a commercial driver's instruction permit, and specifies that the fee for a duplicate shall be \$5.00. This bill also repeals a provision allowing for the issuance of a 30-day commercial driver's instruction permit (Section 302.720). The bill specifies that applicants for a commercial driver's license shall complete an entry-level driver training program as required under federal law (Section 302.720).

The Director of Revenue currently has the authority to waive the driving skills test for a commercial driver's license for qualified military applicants. This bill allows the Director of Revenue to also waive the written test, and to waive the skills and written tests for commercial driver's instruction permits. The bill repeals the list of specific requirements an applicant must certify that he or she meets, and specifies that the applicant shall meet all federal and state qualifications and shall be required to complete applicable tests that are not waived (Section 302.720). Beginning December 1, 2019, the Department of Revenue shall certify as a third-party tester any private education institution or other private entity, provided the necessary qualifications are met (Section 302.720).

This bill allows for the use of an electronic verification system, approved by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, to receive medical examiner's certificates for commercial driver's license issuance (Section 302.768).

This bill is similar to SB 919, HCS#2 SS#2 SCS SB 1050, HB 2497, and SCS HCS HBs 2277 & 1983 (2018).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this is a beneficial bill for veterans as well as for Missouri. This bill helps generate revenue

for Missouri. Also, commercial drivers are in high demand, and this bill will provide jobs for veterans. Supporters say that this bill will ease the process for veterans to acquire jobs.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Libla; Missouri Department of Revenue; Missouri Trucking Association; Tom Lansing, Hogan Transports; and the Missouri Dump Truck Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.