

Comment Report

HSB 99

A bill for an act authorizing the department of transportation to renew certain valid commercial driver's licenses without examination, including by electronic renewal, and including effective date provisions.(See HF 280.)

Subcommittee Members: Mommsen-CH, Meyer, B., Siegrist

Date: 01/25/2021

Time: 11:30 AM


Location: House Lounge

Name: Craig Patterson

Comment: Reps. Mommsen, Meyer and Siegrist, The Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA) has recently changed its registration to show its support for this legislation. The CDL process is still a challenge for a lot of public transit providers, due to scheduling, availability, and other factors. However, we appreciate the Iowa DOT's steps toward addressing this with bills like this one. We stand ready to work with you and others in advancing this legislation. Thank you!

Name: Susan Fenton


Comment: Dear Chairman Mommsen, Representative B. Meyer and Representative Siegrist: HSB 99 if enacted will allow for electronic renewal for many holders of commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) every other renewal period. Attached, please find a one summary of the bill. Thank you, Susan Fenton



PROPOSAL

ALLOW ELECTRONIC RENEWAL OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES (CDLs)

PROPOSED SOLUTION: Amend sections 321.188 and 321.196 of the Iowa Code to allow CDL holders (without a hazardous materials endorsement) to renew their licenses electronically every other renewal period by using mymvd.iowadot.gov



BACKGROUND

During the Iowa DOT's response to COVID-19, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced that they will allow the electronic renewal of CDLs unless the person holds a hazardous materials endorsement (HME). To maintain an HME, federal regulations require the person to complete the hazardous materials knowledge test in-person at each renewal.

Currently, Iowa Code specifically prohibits the electronic renewal of a CDL, but allows electronic renewals of noncommercial licenses every other renewal.

CDL holders certifying to non-expected interstate driving are required to have a valid medical certificate on file prior to renewal. Certificates are accepted via mail, fax or email.



POSITIVE IMPACT



PROVIDES GREATER FLEXIBILITY & CONVENIENCE
for CDL holders.



DECREASES WAIT TIMES FOR IOWANS SEEKING APPOINTMENTS OR SERVICE
whose needs must be met in-person.



FURTHERS COVID-19 RELIEF
by reducing unnecessary in-person visits to DOT service centers and county treasurer's offices by an **estimated 28,000 people per year.**



INCREASES EFFICIENCY OF DRIVER'S LICENSE STAFF
by reallocating their time to serve more customers including administering driving exams, responding to customer emails and phone calls, document processing, and records work.