



HF 828 – Commercial Driver’s Licenses, Testing Fees (LSB1747HZ.2)
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Fiscal Note Version – Final Action

Description

[House File 828](#) assesses fees for the driving skills testing required to obtain a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). The Bill allows the Department of Transportation (DOT) to charge a \$25 fee to schedule the pre-trip inspection test. The Bill also allows counties that provide CDL testing to charge \$25 for each of the three driving skills tests required for the issuance of a CDL. These fees are nonrefundable, and fees collected by the DOT are allocated to the Statutory Allocations Fund, while the fees collected from counties are deposited in that county’s general fund. The fees assessed in this Bill do not apply to any third party that offers driving skills testing for a CDL. If a person is employed by or volunteers for a government entity, they would only pay for the pre-trip vehicle inspection portion of the test if they take the test at a county facility, and would pay no fees if they test at a DOT facility.

This Bill takes effect January 1, 2022.

Background

Prior to being able to take a CDL skills test, a person must obtain a Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP) by passing the CDL knowledge test. A CDL skills test involves three sections of testing including pre-trip vehicle inspection, basic control skills, and road driving. Each portion of the test is estimated to take 30 minutes to complete, creating a 90-minute testing slot. The DOT and county treasurer offices require the person taking the test to provide the vehicle used in testing. Currently there are 15 third parties authorized to administer CDL skills tests in Iowa.

2020 Iowa Acts, chapter [41](#), instructed the DOT to conduct a study on the driving skills tests required to obtain a CDL, and evaluate and recommend testing options to increase access to tests across the State. The study identified 26 other states that assess fees for CDL skills testing. The DOT study can be found [here](#).

Assumptions

- Approximately 8,100 CDL tests are conducted annually by the State and 2,200 by counties.
- The DOT will charge \$25 for each pre-trip inspection test.
- Counties will charge \$25 for each of the three tests required to receive a CDL.

Fiscal Impact

If all persons who take the CDL driving skills tests pass each component on their first attempt, the fees introduced in this Bill will result in an estimated increase of \$203,000 to the Statutory Allocations Fund and \$165,000 to county general funds annually. While there will be some people seeking the issuance of a CDL who pay reduced or no fees for working with a government entity, it is unknown how many would be exempt. As such, those exemptions are not included in this estimate.

Sources

Legislative Services Agency
Department of Transportation

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.

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