

**House File 2101 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2101

BY A. MEYER

**A BILL FOR**

- 1 An Act prohibiting the use of a language other than English for
- 2 class C commercial driver's license examinations.
- 3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 1.18, subsection 5, paragraph i, Code  
2 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 i. Any oral or written communications, examinations, or  
4 publications, other than examinations for a class C commercial  
5 driver's license, produced or utilized by a driver's license  
6 station, provided public safety is not jeopardized.

7 Sec. 2. Section 321.187, subsection 1, Code 2026, is amended  
8 to read as follows:

9 1. The department shall examine applicants for driver's  
10 licenses. The department, a third-party test examiner, or a  
11 third-party tester shall not use a language other than English to  
12 examine an applicant for a class C commercial driver's license.  
13 Examiners of the department shall wear an identifying badge and  
14 uniform provided by the department.

15 EXPLANATION

16 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
17 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

18 Under current law, the English language is the official  
19 language of the state of Iowa. All official documents,  
20 regulations, orders, transactions, proceedings, programs,  
21 meetings, publications, or actions taken or issued, which are  
22 conducted or regulated by, or on behalf of, or representing  
23 Iowa and all of its political subdivisions are required to  
24 be in the English language. However, there are exceptions to  
25 this requirement, including communications, examinations, and  
26 publications produced or utilized by driver's license stations.

27 This bill provides that the driver's license examination  
28 exception does not apply to class C commercial driver's license  
29 (CDL) examinations. The department of transportation (DOT) uses  
30 one of three designations to classify CDLs, described in 761 IAC  
31 602.3(1) as class A CDL, class B CDL, and class C CDL. A class  
32 C CDL is valid for a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating  
33 (GVWR) of less than 26,001 pounds, or any such vehicle towing  
34 a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR. A class C CDL  
35 applies only to vehicles that are required to be placarded for

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1 hazardous materials or vehicles that are designed to transport  
2 16 or more persons including the driver, or any redesigned or  
3 modified vehicle with a GVWR of 10,001 or more pounds that has  
4 been redesigned or modified to transport less than 16 persons  
5 with disabilities. The bill also prohibits the DOT or designated  
6 third parties from using a language other than English to examine  
7 an applicant for a class C CDL.

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