

MEMORANDUM

To: Iowa Legislature

From: Iowa Department of Transportation

Re: Commercial Driver's Licenses, Electronic Renewal

Bill Date: 12/14/2020

During the department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) announced that they will allow the electronic renewal of Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDLs) unless the person holds a hazardous materials endorsement (HME). To maintain an HME endorsement, 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.

Solution:

By allowing CDLs (without an HME) to be renewed electronically, we will provide greater flexibility and convenience for CDL holders and will also decrease wait times for lowans seeking appointments or service whose needs must be met in-person. This bill will also increase 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. Making this change will allow eligible CDL holders to renew their license electronically every other renewal period by using www.mymvd.gov.