

HB 634 -- Highway Safety

Sponsor: Myers

This bill creates the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Fund, which will receive 3% of all fees collected by the state from the operation of commercial vehicles to provide training and equipment for highway safety officers. The Director of the Department of Public Safety is allowed to appoint qualified persons as highway safety officers. These officers will not be members of the State Highway Patrol but will have full police powers upon completion of peace officer training.

Currently, the Superintendent of the State Highway Patrol may assign persons to serve as commercial vehicle inspectors, who cannot carry a firearm and have limited police powers, and commercial vehicle enforcement officers, who may carry a firearm and have arrest powers over commercial drivers. The bill repeals these job categories.