

HCS SS SCS SB 443 -- REGULATION OF COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES

SPONSOR: Stouffer (Denison)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass - federal mandate" by the Committee on Transportation by a vote of 11 to 0.

This substitute changes the laws regarding commercial driver's licenses. In its main provision, the substitute:

(1) Specifies that a commercial motor vehicle operator or a holder of a commercial driver's license will not be eligible to have a suspension for failure to appear removed from his or her driving record. Currently, if a person fails to timely dispose of a traffic ticket, the court will notify the Director of the Department of Revenue of the fact and the department director must suspend the offender's driver's license until the person pays the fines and applicable court costs. Upon proof of disposition of the charges and payment of a reinstatement fee, the department director must return the license and remove the suspension from the person's driver's record;

(2) Specifies that a person will be disqualified for a commercial driver's license for any withdrawal of his or her privilege to drive a commercial vehicle by the countries of Canada or Mexico as the result of certain specified motor vehicle violations;

(3) Requires an applicant for a commercial driver's license or commercial driver's instruction permit to comply with the requirements of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration by certifying that he or she is:

(a) A driver operating or expecting to operate in interstate or foreign commerce or is otherwise subject to and meets federal rules and is required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate;

(b) A driver operating or expecting to operate entirely in interstate commerce that is exempt from federal law and not required to obtain a medical examiner's certificate;

(c) A driver operating only in intrastate commerce and is subject to Missouri driver qualifications; or

(d) A driver operating or expecting to operate only in intrastate commerce and engaging only in operations exempt from all Missouri driver qualification requirements; and

(4) Specifies that an applicant certifying to operation in nonexempt commerce must provide the state with a current medical

examiner's certificate or a certificate accompanied by a medical variance or waiver. The substitute specifies the certification process. A person who falsifies any information in an application for or an update of medical certification status information cannot be licensed to operate a commercial vehicle or his or her commercial driver's license must be canceled for a period of one year after the department director discovers the falsification.

The provisions of the substitute will become effective on the date the Director of the Department of Revenue begins accepting medical certifications or on May 1, 2013, whichever occurs first.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2013, FY 2014, and FY 2015.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that the bill is necessary to comply with federal mandates in order to receive approximately \$30 million this year and \$60 million next year in federal funds.

Testifying for the bill were Senator Stouffer; Department of Transportation; Department of Revenue; and Missouri Trucking Association.

OPPOSERS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.