

HCS HBs 296 & 438 -- SCHOOL BUS ENDORSEMENTS

SPONSOR: Kalberloh

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Transportation by a vote of 11 to 0, with 4 members voting present. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 6 to 1 with 1 member present.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 296.

Currently, for persons 70 years and older who have school bus endorsements on their drivers license, the license is issued or renewed for only one year at a time, the renewal fee is waived, the school bus portion of the drivers license examination must be taken annually, and a commercial drivers license with a school bus endorsement must be issued annually.

This bill changes the age for these specific provisions to age 75 or over.

This bill is similar to HB 1626 and HB 1940 (2024).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that practically every school district is in need of school bus drivers. The law currently states at the age of 70, school bus drivers have to redo the driving test. What has been happening is current drivers do not want to have to retake the driving test so they decide to not renew their license. This means the districts lose drivers. The districts know whether the drivers are still good drivers. This bill raises the age for retesting to 75. School districts are under no obligation to hire these older bus drivers if the age is a concern.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Kalberloh; Arnie Dienoff.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.