

HB 2741 -- UNIFORM COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE ACT

SPONSOR: Caton

This bill requires an operator of a commercial motor vehicle to speak English sufficiently to:

- (1) Converse with the general public;
- (2) Understand highway traffic signs and signals in English;
- (3) Respond to official inquiries; and
- (4) Make entries on reports and records.

An operator of a commercial motor vehicle who fails to demonstrate the required English language proficiency commits a class D misdemeanor on a first offense and a class B misdemeanor on a second or subsequent offense.

A driver found to be in violation of the English language proficiency requirement is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle in the State until the driver is able to meet the required English language proficiency.

A fine of \$1,000 will be imposed on the driver of the motor vehicle, and a fine of \$3,000 will be imposed on their commercial motor carrier. The commercial motor carrier will be notified of the location of any commercial motor vehicle involved in a violation of the English language proficiency requirement, and upon payment of the \$3,000 fine, a qualified driver will take possession of the vehicle.

The bill provides that if the carrier is unable to pay the fine or present a qualified driver within 12 hours, the owner of any cargo being transported in the commercial motor vehicle may arrange for the transfer of their property to another vehicle, but neither the State nor the owner of the cargo will be liable for any reasonable action to transfer the cargo.

This bill requires a person holding a nondomiciled commercial driver's license or a commercial driver's instruction permit within this state to have a valid work visa and provide proof of citizenship to validate his or her identity while operating a commercial motor vehicle.

An operator who fails to possess a valid work visa and provide proof of citizenship while operating a commercial vehicle will be prohibited from operating a commercial vehicle until such operator is able to meet these requirements and if such operator operates a commercial motor vehicle again without meeting these requirements, such operator commits a class B misdemeanor and is subject to a fine of \$1,000 or imprisonment for up to 90 days.

A fine \$3,000 will be imposed on a commercial motor carrier whose driver fails to possess a valid work visa and proof of citizenship while operating a commercial motor vehicle. The commercial motor carrier will be notified of the location of any commercial motor vehicle involved in the violation of not possessing a valid work visa and proof of citizenship, and upon payment of the \$3,000 fine, a qualified driver will take possession of the vehicle.

The bill provides that if the carrier is unable to pay the fine or present a qualified driver within 12 hours, the owner of any cargo being transported in the commercial motor vehicle may arrange for the transfer of their property to another vehicle, but neither the State nor the owner of the cargo will be liable for any reasonable action to transfer the cargo.