

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. House Bill 2296

PRINTER NO. 4542

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 18, 2020

PRIME SPONSOR

Representative Mizgorski

DESCRIPTION AND PURPOSE OF BILL

House Bill 2296 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to provide for a bioptic telescope learner’s permit and driver’s license, a CDL (commercial driver’s license) exemption for plowing snow in a political subdivision, additional CDL training requirements, a time extension for a commercial learners’ permit, stricter penalties for a driver of a commercial motor vehicle that is convicted of human trafficking and free identification cards for homeless individuals.

Title 75 is amended as follows:

- Section 1505 (relating to learners’ permits) is amended by adding a subsection to allow an individual with visual acuity less than 20/100 combined visual acuity but at least 20/200 visual acuity in the best corrected eye to be eligible to apply for a bioptic telescope learner’s permit and provides certain requirements for an individual with a bioptic telescope learners’ permit to take the driver’s examination;
- Section 1508 (relating to examination of applicant for driver’s license) is amended by adding a subsection to provide certain requirements for an individual transferring the driver’s out-of-state bioptic telescope driver’s license to this Commonwealth;
- Section 1512 (relating to restrictions on drivers’ licenses) is amended by adding a subsection to allow an individual who meets the bioptic telescope learner’s permit requirements and successfully passes a driver’s examination to operate a motor vehicle under certain conditions;
- Section 1604 (relating to notification requirements for drivers) is amended by reducing the timeframe from 30 days to 15 days for when a CDL holder shall provide notice to their employer that they were cited, arrested or charged with violating a federal or state law or local ordinance relating to motor vehicle traffic control in this or any other state or any federal, provincial, territorial or municipal law relating to motor vehicle traffic control in Canada, other than parking violations. The bill clarifies that an employer that receives timely notice from an employee may not terminate the employee solely for providing the notice unless the employee is convicted of the violation. Additionally, a new penalty is established that provides for an additional fine of \$300 if the unreported violation includes:

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- 1) Violations relating to serious traffic offenses;
 - 2) Driving under influence of alcohol or controlled substance;
 - 3) Any felony penalty or a penalty punishable by imprisonment for more than five years; and
 - 4) Driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol in Canada.
- Section 1606 (relating to requirement for commercial driver's license) is amended to permit a driver who is 18 years of age or older and employed by a political subdivision to operate a commercial motor vehicle for the purpose of removing snow or ice from a roadway. The driver must have a certificate of authorization from the political subdivision while operating the commercial motor vehicle;
 - Section 1607 (relating to commercial driver's license qualification standards) is amended to require a CDL candidate to complete training as prescribed by 49 CFR Part 380 (relating to special training requirements) before taking the knowledge test for a hazardous materials endorsement for the first time and extends the timeframe from 180 days to one year for an individual to hold a commercial learner's permit;
 - Section 1607 (relating to commercial driver's license qualification standards) is further amended to require a CDL candidate to complete training as prescribed by 49 CFR Part 380 before taking the skills test for a Class A or B CDL and for a passenger (P) or school bus (S) endorsement for the first time;
 - Section 1611 (relating to disqualification) is amended by adding a subsection to require the Department of Transportation (department) to disqualify an individual from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life upon receiving a record of conviction of using a commercial motor vehicle involved in human trafficking; and
 - Section 1901 (relating to exemption of persons, entities and vehicles from fees) is amended by adding a subsection to provide homeless individuals with a free identification card. The individual must affirm that they are homeless (Public Law 100- 77, 42 U.S.C. Section 11302), a resident of this Commonwealth and aware of unsworn falsification.

This act shall take effect as follows:

- The following provisions shall take effect in 60 days:
 - I. Amendment to section 1604;
 - II. Parts of amendment to section 1607; and
 - III. Amendment to section 1901.
- The following provisions shall take effect in six months:
 - I. Parts of amendment to section 1607; and
 - II. Amendment to section 1611

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- The following provisions shall take effect in ten months:
 - I. Amendment to section 1505;
 - II. Amendment to section 1508; and
 - III. Amendment to section 1512;
- The following provisions shall take effect January 1, 2022:
 - I. Parts of amendment to section 1607.
- The remainder of this act shall take effect immediately.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Department of Transportation (department), enactment of this legislation will require one-time computer system changes and ongoing additional staffing cost of \$1.8 million and \$250,000, respectively.

The department provided the following estimated costs based upon components:

- Section 1606 (relating to requirement for commercial driver's license) – No Fiscal Impact;
- Section 1607 (relating to commercial driver's license qualification standards) (extension of timeframe) - \$300,000 for computer system changes;
- Section 1607 (relating to commercial driver's license qualification standards) (entry level driver training) - \$900,000 for computer system changes;
- Section 1611 (relating to disqualification) (human trafficking) - \$122,000 for computer system changes;
- Section 1901 (relating to exemption of persons, entities and vehicles from fees) (free homeless identification cards) - \$12,000 for computer system changes and \$250,000 annually for additional staffing; and
- Multiple sections on bioptic telescope learner's permit and driver's licenses - \$500,000 for computer system changes.

In addition to the costs itemized above, the department expects minimal costs for internet webpage updates, staff training, forms and publications, call center modules, communications and information updates.

Finally, the department may realize reduced revenue as a result of the amendment to Section 1901, which provides for free identification cards for individuals who are homeless. The department currently charges \$31.50 for each identification card and will experience reduced revenue of \$3,150 for every 100 individuals receiving a card at no cost.