

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 725

PRINTER NO. 824

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Motor License Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

May 28, 2021

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Bartolotta

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 725 amends Title 75 (Vehicles) to clarify that a driver with a Class C driver’s license may operate a covered farm vehicle.

Specifically, the legislation amends Section 1504 (Classes of License) to allow a driver with a Class C driver’s license to operate a covered farm vehicle, regardless of other requirements as to the class of license required.

The legislation also amends Section 1606 (Requirement for commercial driver’s license) to clarify that (1) a driver with a Class C driver’s license may operate a Pennsylvania covered farm vehicle in the Commonwealth without a commercial driver’s license and (2) a driver with a Class C driver’s license or an out-of-state equivalent driver’s license may operate a covered farm vehicle from another state when the vehicle is operated within 150 air miles of the out-of-state farm.

The legislation is scheduled to take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Transportation estimates the enactment of Senate Bill 725 will have a minimal impact on the Motor License Fund.

Act 170 of 2014 exempted a licensed driver from operating a farm vehicle anywhere in the Commonwealth. However, Act 170 has been interpreted by the Pennsylvania State Police to require a farmer to hold a Class A driver’s license when operating heavy vehicles. While it is unknown how many farmers hold Class A driver’s licenses in part because of the conflicting interpretation of the law, the cost for a Class A driver’s license is just \$5 more than the standard Class C driver’s license. Assuming 1,000 farmers that presently hold Class A driver’s licenses choose not to maintain their Class A driver’s licenses upon renewal and opt for a Class C driver’s license, the legislation would result in a loss of \$5,000 to the Motor License Fund.