

Nick Jordan, Secretary
Lisa Kaspar, Director

Sam Brownback, Governor

Testimony

To: Chairman Petersen & Members of the Senate Transportation Committee
From: Lisa Kaspar, Director of Vehicles
Date: February 17, 2015
RE: Testimony on Senate Bill 126
Commercial Driver's License Test Fees

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 126.

The Division of Vehicles is proposing a \$15 Commercial Drive Test fee and establishment of a Driver's License Application Processing fee fund. The fund would allow the fee to be retained by the Division of Vehicles for the purpose of covering costs associated with administration of Commercial Drive Tests.

Current and proposed test fees are as follows:

CDL Test Fees	Current	Proposed
Written & Vision Exam	\$3.00	\$3.00
Vision Retest	-0-	-0-
Written Retest	\$1.50	\$1.50
Drive Test	-0-	\$15.00
Drive Retest	\$1.50	\$10.00

Applicants are able to take the written or drive test four times within a six month period. The drive test portion has three components: Pre-Trip, Skills and Road. The drive test takes a minimum of 1 hour and 30 minutes which equates to \$19.00-\$20.00 in examiner salary.

In FY 2014, we administered 7,282 CDL drive tests. There were 2,084 who did not pass the drive test. Staff spent 10,923 hours administering the drive test at a cost of \$212,998.50 (based on average salary of \$19.50). We received \$18,720 causing us to lose \$194,278.50. Under this proposal we would have received \$98,810.00 allowing us to recuperate some of our costs.

Maintenance and replacement of CDL courses is very expensive. In 2014, we replaced the course in Hays at a cost of over \$60,000.00. By replacing this

course and hiring an additional examiner, we were able to conduct 253 additional CDL tests in Hays in 2014.

In order to maintain compliance with the American Association of Motor Vehicles Administrators we must pay for background checks, drug tests and training for all examiners which is another cost associated with CDL drive tests.

We are in the process of implementing 2014 HB 2693 and plan to develop a certification program to include training and certification of technical schools, community colleges and third party testers. This will require staff time, materials, and travel which were not allocated for.

Currently Driver's License Examination fees are deposited in the State Highway Fund and the Department of Revenue relies on an appropriation in order to pay the cost of salaries for Driver's License Examiners. This bill proposes establishing a Driver's License Application fee fund in which the CDL Drive Test Fees would be deposited for use by the Division of Vehicles to cover the costs to administer the drive tests.

This bill retains the \$3.00 fee for written and vision tests and adds a \$15.00 initial drive test fee and a \$10.00 re-exam drive test fee. The funds will be used for CDL examiner salaries, course repairs, background and drug tests, training and the certification program for third party testers. This will allow us to continue to improve this service and reduce wait times.

Thank you, I will now ask Kent Selk, CDL Manager, to join me and we will stand for questions.