

# FINAL BILL REPORT

## SHB 1597

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Synopsis as Enacted

**Brief Description:** Allowing holders of commercial drivers' licenses to delay a physical examination.

**Sponsors:** By House Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Mielke, Armstrong, Boldt, Orcutt, Wood, Woods, Kristiansen, Campbell, Hatfield, Sump and Schoesler).

**House Committee on Transportation**  
**Senate Committee on Highways & Transportation**

### **Background:**

An applicant for a commercial driver's license (CDL) or CDL instruction permit must provide proof that he or she has undergone a physical exam that meets the federal requirements for commercial drivers. Thus, the statute links the two requirements of physical capacity and licensing. Under federal rules, a driver must provide proof of physical capacity and a valid CDL, but the two are separate requirements.

### **Summary:**

An individual applying for a CDL or a CDL instruction permit is not required to provide proof of a physical exam with his or her application.

An individual may not drive a commercial motor vehicle unless he or she is physically qualified to do so, and is carrying a copy of a medical examiner's certificate that states he or she is fit to drive a commercial vehicle. An exception is provided for drivers of farm vehicles.

It is a traffic infraction for a person to drive a commercial vehicle without having a copy of the medical examiner's certificate on his or her person. The penalty for the infraction is \$250. This amount may be reduced to \$50 if the individual can provide proof that he or she held a valid certificate at the time of the infraction.

### **Votes on Final Passage:**

House 92 1  
Senate 39 10

**Effective:** July 27, 2003