

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 6388

As of February 1, 2012

Title: An act relating to eliminating the course of instruction and employer skills and training certification requirements for commercial driver's license applicants.

Brief Description: Eliminating the course of instruction and employer skills and training certification requirements for commercial driver's license applicants.

Sponsors: Senators Morton, Benton, Schoesler, Honeyford, Parlette and Ericksen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Transportation: 1/31/12.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Staff: Kelly Simpson (786-7403)

Background: Generally, an applicant for a commercial driver license (CDL) must either complete a course of instruction in the operation of a commercial motor vehicle or be certified by the applicant's employer as having the skills and training necessary to safely operate a commercial motor vehicle. However, a CDL applicant who operates a commercial motor vehicle for agribusiness purposes is exempt from both the course of instruction and employer certification requirements. Agribusiness means a private carrier who in the normal course of business primarily transports farm equipment, agricultural inputs, unprocessed agricultural commodities produced by farmers, or any combination of these items.

In addition to satisfying the course of instruction and employer certification requirements, a CDL applicant must pass a federally compliant knowledge and skills test for driving a commercial motor vehicle.

Summary of Bill: The course of instruction and employer certification requirements related to obtaining a CDL are repealed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Many truck drivers are largely self-employed and have little time or money to invest in instruction courses. The CDL process is too expensive, and the current requirements are too stringent. Most truck drivers have the necessary experience.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Morton, prime sponsor; Scott Dilley, WA Farm Bureau.