

Department of Planning and Budget 2012 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB194

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/>	In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/>	Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Enrolled

2. Patron: Lewis

3. Committee: Transportation

4. Title: Driver's licenses, commercial; requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to consider applicants' military experience.

5. Summary: This bill requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to consider applicants' military training and experience in assessing their eligibility to receive a Virginia commercial driver's license.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: The requirements this legislation would impose upon the Department of Motor Vehicles are unclear. Therefore, an estimate of its impact on expenditures and revenue cannot be provided.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Motor Vehicles.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: The Department of Motor Vehicles is presently spearheading an effort to make Virginia the first state to pilot a program where military members will be able to leave service and exchange their military commercial driver's license (CDL) for a state-issued CDL without the need for a written or skills test.

The Department of Motor Vehicles is currently working with the Department of Veterans Services on an initiative known as *Troops to Trucks* to explore waiving the commercial driver's license skills test for military service personnel who hold a military driver's license (enabling them to operate large military vehicles). Other participants include representatives from the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the Marines, the Army, the Army National Guard, and Southside Virginia Community College.

While it might seem like a simple thing to exchange a military driver's license for a commercial driver's license, it is, in fact, much more complex. For one thing, there is no

standardized training or testing across the five service branches. Further, there is no standardized training and testing within some service branches, such as the Army. Army licensure to operate military vehicles occurs at the unit level and a soldier will be retested each time he or she moves to a new unit. Additionally, military vehicles are not necessarily classified the same as commercial vehicles. In the Marines, vehicles are classified in terms of how much they can haul, whereas in the civilian world, vehicles are rated on gross vehicle weight. Further, a 26,000 lb. tractor unit with a 50-foot trailer will be operated differently on deployment than it will be on civilian highways.

Despite these differences and obstacles, the group has made good progress in identifying commonalities and addressing ways to overcome differences so that the skills test may be waived for some qualifying military drivers.

Date: 1/16/12

Document: Janet Vogelgesang G:\12-14\FIS\HB194.doc

c: Secretary of Transportation
Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security