
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 6656

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE TEST AND ON-THE-ROAD SKILLS TEST FOR AN OPERATOR'S LICENSE AND THE RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF DRIVER TRAINING REQUIREMENTS.

SUMMARY

This bill makes three unrelated changes in the laws governing driver licensing and testing.

It requires the driver's license knowledge test to be provided, at the option of the applicant, in English, Spanish, and at least 34 other languages as prescribed by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) commissioner. Under current law, the test must be offered in English, Spanish, or any language spoken at home by at least 1% of the state's population, based on the most recent U.S. decennial census.

In determining the other languages for the knowledge test, the commissioner must (1) consult with representatives of organizations that advocate on behalf of or assist immigrants, refugees, or other English language learners and (2) be responsive to the linguistic needs of the state's emerging immigrant and refugee populations. By law, unchanged by the bill, the commissioner must require a driver's license applicant to have sufficient understanding of English to interpret traffic control signs.

In addition, the bill requires the DMV commissioner to do the following:

1. by October 1, 2023, offer appointments for the on-the-road skills test, to be administered by one of his agents or a motor vehicle inspector agent, at licensed driving schools for all students who are otherwise eligible to take the test (under current practice,

these tests are offered to drivers up to age 21) and

2. by February 1, 2024, submit a status report to the Transportation Committee about a reciprocal agreement with Taiwan for recognizing driver training requirements.

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes, including removing references to a repealed statute.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage, except the provision related to translated knowledge tests is effective October 1, 2023.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Transportation Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 34 Nay 2 (03/17/2023)