

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27272 / S1230

Currently when a person with a commercial driver's license (CDL) is convicted of certain offenses, federal code requires a lifetime disqualification of the individual. This means that these individuals can never again obtain a commercial driver license.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has adopted new rules that allow jurisdictions the ability to reinstate commercial drivers with lifetime disqualification offenses, after ten years has elapsed. It requires states to have a rehabilitation program in order to permit jurisdictions the ability to allow these drivers to again obtain their commercial driving privileges after an initial ten years, but does not specify what the rehabilitation program must include. Idaho desires to implement a program similar to that of Oregon, South Dakota, and North Dakota, which would include criteria such as a clean driving record for the past 3 years, completion of online defensive driving classes for driving safety, truck driver safety, and successful completion of knowledge and skills testing.

This proposal provides economic opportunity for commercial drivers who seek licensure after serving a ten year disqualification period, will help increase the number of CDL drivers as shortages persist, is in line with the Governor's Licensing Freedom Act and has the support of industry, the Idaho Trucking Advisory Council, and FMCSA.

FISCAL NOTE

The Department does not anticipate any program cost increases; there may be some minimal upfront programming, and utilizing existing staff time to review the requirements of the amount of drivers who want to regain their commercial driving privileges. If this proposal passes there would be approximately 250 drivers who could take advantage of the opportunity, and about a 100 drivers in each subsequent year.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).