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**Important Notice: This fiscal note on unofficial draft legislation was requested by or on behalf of a member of the legislature who directed that it be classified under Minn. Stat. 13.64 Subd. 3 (b). Until the conditions outlined in this statute have been met, the existence and contents of this fiscal note remain classified as Nonpublic data.**

**Fiscal Note**

**2023-2024 Legislative Session**

**SF9033 - 0 - Written Driver's Exam Plain Language Standards**

Chief Author: **Unknown Author**  
 Committee: **Unknown Committee**  
 Date Completed: **2/2/2024 3:32:30 PM**  
 Agency: **Public Safety Dept**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures	X	
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

<b>State Cost (Savings)</b>	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Restrict Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	212	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	<b>212</b>	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>			<b>212</b>			-

<b>Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)</b>	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Restrict Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-

**LBO Analyst's Comment**

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

This is a classified unofficial fiscal note request. If identical language to that which the classified fiscal note was based upon is made available for consideration by the legislature, the fiscal note is considered public data. The LBO will process requests for copies of the classified fiscal note if the note is considered public data, and/or will process new requests for a regular fiscal note on the introduced language. If the language is offered for consideration by the legislature, it is recommended that a new request for a regular fiscal note be made so that the most updated and complete information on the fiscal effect can be made available.

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**State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details**

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

\*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

<b>State Cost (Savings) = 1-2</b>		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Restrict Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	212	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>212</b>	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				<b>212</b>		-
<b>1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*</b>						
Restrict Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	212	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	<b>212</b>	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				<b>212</b>		-
<b>2 - Revenues, Transfers In*</b>						
Restrict Misc. Special Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Biennial Total</b>				-		-

**Bill Description**

Relating to transportation; driver and vehicle services; requiring incorporation of plain language standards for written driver's examinations; requiring a report; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 171.13, by adding a subdivision.

**Assumptions**

Commercial Driver's License (CDL) manual and tests are federally regulated and no changes to the CDL exams are required. Assume requirements apply only to Class D knowledge exam.

Assume the Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services (DVS) division has a Test Maintenance Committee (TMC) made up of existing staff that will monitor, review, and edit the written portion of the driver's license knowledge examination to meet plain language standards. Assume costs and staff time for TMC meetings are part of existing duties and will be absorbed by the department.

Assume Class D knowledge test questions will reflect word-for-word fidelity with the Class D Driver's Manual. Assume the English language Class D Driver's Manual must be rewritten to plain language standards before Class D knowledge test questions can be written to plain language standards.

Assume new plain language version of Class D Driver's Manual and knowledge test will be made available in all existing formats and languages.

Assume the English language Class D Driver's Manual and Class D knowledge test are translated into nine languages (Somali, Hmong, Russian, Vietnamese, Karen, Dari, Pashto, Ukrainian, and Spanish). Assume new versions of the Class D Driver's Manual and Class D knowledge test must be translated into those same nine languages.

Assume DVS will contract with existing vendors at current rates to conduct translations.

Assume Class D Driver's Manual translations will cost \$99,998 (translations for Somali \$13,164 + Hmong \$10,881 + Russian \$10,104 + Vietnamese \$10,492 + Karen \$14,767 + Dari \$11,657 + Pashto \$11,657 + Ukrainian \$12,435 + Spanish \$2,681 = \$97,838). Assume translation vendor must reformat and prepare files for translation at a cost of \$240 per language. (\$240 x 9 = \$2,160). (Total translation costs: \$97,838 + \$2,160 = \$99,998).

Assume Class D knowledge test translations will cost of \$12,060. (Spanish \$875 + Somali \$1,532 + Hmong \$1,225 +

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Russian \$1,006 + Vietnamese \$1,182 + Karen \$1,967 + Dari \$1,298 + Pashto \$1,400 + Ukrainian \$1,575 = \$12,060).

Assume Class D knowledge test is also available via audio recording in nine languages (other than English). Assume all audio recordings must be re-recorded at a cost of \$8,100. (Nine languages x \$900 per language = \$8,100).

Assume Class D Driver's Manual and Class D knowledge test are also available via audio recording in English. Assume audio recording in English for Class D Driver's Manual and knowledge test can be re-recorded by Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) at a cost of \$100. (Class D Manual \$50 + Class D exam \$50 = \$100).

Assume Class D knowledge test is also available via American Sign Language (ASL). Assume DVS will contract with existing vendor to re-record video production of Class D knowledge exam in ASL at a cost of \$900.

Assume Class D knowledge test questions are maintained and uploaded through secure vendor IDEMIA. Assume IDEMIA will upload new test questions for DVS at a cost of \$90,908.

Assume paper copies of the plain language tests to be printed by each individual station on an as-needed basis at nominal costs that will be absorbed by DVS.

Assume Office of Communication (OOC) to do an additional review of Class D Driver's Manual and knowledge test for plain language with existing resources and costs will be absorbed by the department.

Assume effective date of February 1, 2025, for plain language standards for the Class D Driver's Manual and knowledge test.

Assume DVS will complete a report by February 1, 2026, to be submitted to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees having jurisdiction over transportation finance and policy on the implementation of plain language standards.

Assume the report will also include an analysis of the English exams compared to other languages, hiring and staffing, expenditures, recommendations, and feedback from driver's education programs and other public entity stakeholders. Assume 40 hours to complete report. Assume total cost of FTE time to complete the report is less than \$2,000 and will be absorbed by DVS.

### **Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula**

Translating Class D Driver's Manual = \$99,998 (Somali \$13,164 + Hmong \$10,881 + Russian \$10,104 + Vietnamese \$10,492 + Karen \$14,767 + Dari \$11,657 + Pashto \$11,657 + Ukrainian \$12,435 + Spanish 2,681 = \$97,838) (formatting and file preparation for nine languages \$240 x 9 = \$2,160); \$97,838 + \$2,160 = \$99,998).

Translating Class D knowledge test questions = \$12,060 (Spanish \$875 + Somali \$1,532 + Hmong \$1,225 + Russian \$1,006 + Vietnamese \$1,182 + Karen \$1,967 + Dari \$1,298 + Pashto \$1,400 + Ukrainian \$1,575 = \$12,060).

Class D knowledge test audio recordings \$8,100 (nine languages x \$900 per language = \$8,100).

Audio recording in English for Class D Driver's Manual and knowledge test = \$100 (\$50 + \$50 = \$100).

Video production of Class D knowledge test in ASL = \$900.

Updating test questions with third party vendor IDEMIA = \$90,908.

**Total Restricted Misc. Special Revenue Fund Driver and Vehicle Services Operating Account FY25 = \$212,066**

### **Long-Term Fiscal Considerations**

### **Local Fiscal Impact**

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**References/Sources**

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