

HF3071 - 1E - Driver's Exam Plain Language Requirements

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 Committee: **Transportation Finance**
 Date Completed: **2/23/2024 1:21:25 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.

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

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

LBO Analyst's Comment

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

LBO Signature: Laura Cecko **Date:** 2/23/2024 1:21:25 PM
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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.

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

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.

Currently, 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. ($\$240 \times 9 = \$2,160$). (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 + 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 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.

Assume the cost is appropriated from the Driver and Vehicle Services Operating Account and is available until June 30, 2026. Assume the appropriation can be used to cover all costs related to rewriting the knowledge exam, including rewriting the Class D Driver's Manual.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Translating Class D manual = \$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); (formatting and file preparation for nine languages $\$240 \times 9 = \$2,160$); $\$97,838 + \$2,160 = \$99,998$).

Translating Class D 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

References/Sources

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