



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES**

60 State Street, Wethersfield, CT 06161

<http://ct.gov/dmv>



***Testimony of Department of Motor Vehicles***

***Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs Public Hearing***  
***March 8, 2012***

**H.B. No. 5373 (RAISED) AN ACT WAIVING THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TEST FOR VETERANS WITH EQUIVALENT MILITARY LICENSES**, to increase job opportunities available to veterans by allowing an exemption from the commercial driver's license skills and knowledge test for veterans with an equivalent military license.

Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy, Senator Welch, Representative Adinolfi and other members of the Select Committee on Veterans' Affairs, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 5373, AN ACT WAIVING THE COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS TEST FOR VETERANS WITH EQUIVALENT MILITARY LICENSES.

The Department appreciates the intent of this bill and is very supportive of assisting the state's veterans, especially during these difficult economic times. Please note that active duty personnel and veterans who have been honorably separated and apply within two years following the date of separation are exempt from operator license and registration fees, including renewal fees.

DMV currently has a program in place called "Helmets to Hardhats" for military personnel that is designed to assist veterans in obtaining a job as a commercial motor vehicle driver as easily as possible. Please see attached a copy of DMV's procedures for this program that allows for an exemption from the CDL driving skills test for those on active duty, reservist military personnel or recently separated from the military based upon their holding a military license that authorizes the operating of military vehicles that are representative of a commercial motor vehicle of a similar class.

However, please note that DMV cannot waive the written test for a CDL license because federal law does not allow a waiver of the knowledge test under any circumstances.

We hope this information is helpful and would be happy to try to answer any questions you may have.

Again, thank you for allowing me to submit comments on HB 5373.

## Revised Procedure – Helmets to Hardhats

**Purpose:** To allow for an exemption from the CDL driving skills test for active duty, recently separated (within 90 days of application), or reservist military personnel based on their holding a military license which authorizes operation of military vehicles that are representative of a commercial motor vehicle of a similar class.

**Authority:** 49 CFR, Part 383.77 – Substitute for Driving Skills Test

Effective immediately, military personnel (active duty, recently separated, and reservist) will be granted an exemption from the CDL skills test provided he or she meets all criteria required under Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations (FMCSR). This exemption applies only to the driving skills test but does not include school bus proficiency testing. All applicants must pass the required knowledge test(s) based on the type of vehicle to be driven. Knowledge tests will be provided at no fee if the applicant is in active duty status or meets the current military fee exemption criteria. Please use 01/01/09 as the Road Test date. Applicants must also provide information for the 10-year history check.

All applicants must present the following:

- Valid Connecticut operator's license
- Valid Form OF-346 (U.S. Government Motor Vehicle Operator Identification Card)
- Military Identification Card or DD-214 if recently separated
- Letter from commanding officer indicating which CMV class (A, B, or C) is representative of the military vehicle the applicant is licensed to operate
- Medical certification dated within 2 years (actual physical or med cert card)
- Completed DMV Forms B-88 and R-229A
- Color Photograph (passport-size)
- Social Security card or proof of SSN
- Certification Form (signed and dated)

Form OF-346 will indicate the type of vehicle(s) and the vehicle capacity that the applicant is qualified to operate. In order to qualify for the exemption, the capacity must be at least 26,001 lbs. GVWR.

Additionally, persons applying for either the S,V,A, or F endorsement must submit a public service package and receive clearance from the PERU. The skills test is required for the "S" endorsement.

Applicants for a hazardous materials endorsement must obtain clearance through a TSA background check and pass the hazardous materials knowledge test before the endorsement can be issued.

## CDL SKILLS TEST WAIVER – CERTIFICATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ CT OP# \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I certify that I have operated a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle that I operate or expect to operate for at least two (2) years immediately preceding this application for the CDL. Evidence must be included such as: a letter from the applicant's employer; or test results from another state.

OR

\_\_\_\_\_ I certify that I am regularly employed in a job requiring operation of a CMV and I have either previously taken and passed a skills test given by a State with a classified licensing and testing system and that the test was behind the wheel in a representative vehicle for the applicant's license classification.

I do not have more than one (1) license; have not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled; have not had a conviction in any type of motor vehicle for the **disqualifying offenses\*** found in 383.51(b); have not had more than one (1) conviction for **serious traffic violations\*\*** in any type of motor vehicle; have not had any conviction for a violation of State or local law relating to motor vehicle or traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with any traffic accident and have no record of an accident in which I was at fault.

The information provided to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles herein is subscribed by me, the undersigned, under penalty of false statement, in accordance with the provisions of Section 14-110 and 53a-157b of the Connecticut General Statutes. I understand that if I make a statement which I do not believe to be true, with the intent to mislead the Commissioner, I will be subject to prosecution under the above-cited laws.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* 383.51 – Disqualifying Offenses- Conviction for:

- being under the influence of alcohol while operating a CMV
- being under the influence of a controlled substance
- having a alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater while operating a CMV
- refusing to take an alcohol test as required by a State or jurisdiction under its implied consent laws or regulations as defined in 383.72
- leaving the scene of an accident
- using the vehicle to commit a felony
- driving a CMV while the driver's CDL is revoked, suspended, or cancelled or the driver is disqualified from operating a CMV
- causing a fatality through negligent operating of a CMV, including, but not limited to the crimes of motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide by motor vehicle and negligent homicide
- using the vehicle in the commission of a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance

\*\*Serious Traffic Violations – Conviction for:

- speeding in excess of fifteen miles per hour or moreover the posted speed limit
- reckless driving
- following too closely
- improper or erratic lane changes
- driving a CMV without a valid CDL
- failure to carry a CDL
- failure to have proper class of license or endorsement or violation of a license restriction
- in connection with an accident related to operation of a CMV and which resulted in a fatality
- failure to stop at a railroad crossing while operating a CMV

