
OLR BILL ANALYSIS

SB 1018

AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR WEIGH STATIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTRONIC RENEWAL NOTICES AND THE ELIMINATION OF VISION SCREENING TESTS FOR MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS.

SUMMARY:

This bill makes only the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), rather than DMV and the Department of Public Safety (DPS), responsible for staffing and coordinating hours and coverage of permanent truck weigh stations and portable scale locations. It authorizes the DMV commissioner to request the DPS commissioner to assign one state trooper to each working shift in each seven-day period to enforce highway safety laws. It requires the DMV commissioner to develop a form to record certain weigh station information by December 15, 2011 and report this information to the Transportation Committee by January 1, 2012 and semi-annually thereafter. Under current law, the DPS commissioner was required to do so by December 15, 2007 and January 1, 2008, respectively. It also makes conforming changes.

Under current law the transportation commissioner, in consultation with the DMV and DPS commissioners, was to (1) establish a program to implement regularly scheduled operating hours for the weigh stations by January 1, 2004, and (2) report annually on the program to the Transportation Committee, starting October 1, 2004. The bill reinstates the deadlines for these requirements as January 1, 2012 and October 1, 2012 respectively.

The bill requires DMV to create an electronic process to notify holders of driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, and identity cards, when these documents expire.

It eliminates the DMV commissioner's authority to (1) schedule license renewals every four or six years, but maintains the six-year maximum license term, and (2) renew a driver's license or non-driver's identity card at every other renewal without the licensee or card holder's personal appearance in certain instances.

It also eliminates the handicapped driver training program and a scheduled vision screening program for license holders. Under current law the vision screening program is scheduled to begin July 1, 2011.

Finally, the bill exempts DMV from a state law requiring that it maintain a toll-free telephone line. (The bill incorrectly cites this law as § 14-60q. The correct cite for this requirement is § 4-60q).

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

PRELIMINARY