

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION - 2014
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB983

Hearing Date: Monday February 03, 2014
Committee On: Transportation and Telecommunications
Introducer: Dubas
One Liner: Change provisions relating to commercial driver's licenses and commercial learner's permits

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Brasch, Dubas, Hadley, Janssen, McCoy, Smith
Nay:		
Absent:	1	Senator Murante
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator Watermeier

Proponents:

Senator Annette Dubas
Rhonda Lahm
Larry Johnson

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles
Nebraska Trucking Association

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Alice Licht
Anthony Aerts

Representing:

Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Farm Bureau

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

LB983 was introduced at the request of the Department of Motor Vehicles to harmonize provisions with new Federal requirements. Updates statutes regarding the issuance of commercial drivers' licenses, and permits, issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Changes "LPC-learners permit" to "CLP-commercial learner's permit". Updates statutes regarding the authenticity of identification and disqualification for fraudulent applications. Adds new license classifications, endorsements, and restrictions and deletes unused classifications, endorsements, and restrictions. Adds new requirements for medical examiner certifications. Deletes language that conflicts with new license issuance rules. Harmonizes provisions with Uniform Motor Vehicle Disclosure Act. The changes put Nebraska in compliance with Federal rules and regulations. Noncompliance results in penalties of up to \$13.7 million in Federal highway funding the first year and \$27.4 million in subsequent years.

Explanation of amendments:

AM1820 becomes the bill. It combines LBs 249, 981, and 983, all regarding motor vehicle statutes. If any one bill would not pass, Nebraska would be non-compliant with Federal rules and regulations, which carries the same penalty, a loss of \$13.7 million in federal highway funds the first year and \$27.4 million for each subsequent year of noncompliance. LB249 exempts farmers, their family members, and employees from the CDL requirement when driving covered farm vehicles. Defines "covered farm vehicle" as required by Federal rules. Defines "planting and harvesting season" as

required by Federal rules. Provides exemptions to federal motor carrier safety regulations regarding testing, inspection and repair, and hours of service within a 150 mile radius of the farm or farm supply distribution center.

LB981 harmonizes definitions with federal regulations. Further defines "emergency vehicle", "mobile telephone", "school bus operations", and "use a handheld mobile telephone". Bans commercial vehicle operators and operators of 9-15 passenger vans and school buses from texting and using a handheld mobile telephone while driving, unless necessary in an emergency. Allows use of Bluetooth hands free devices and communication that requires only one button push.

Annette Dubas, Chairperson