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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2009-10**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Transportation, Tourism,  
Forestry, and Natural Resources (SC-TTFNR)**

**COMMITTEE NOTICES ...**

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
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**INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL**

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)  
(**ab** = Assembly Bill)                      (**ar** = Assembly Resolution)                      (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)  
(**sb** = Senate Bill)                              (**sr** = Senate Resolution)                              (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

## Senate

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources**

##### **Senate Bill 58**

Relating to: permitting third-party testers to administer driving skills tests for certain noncommercial motor vehicle drivers.

By Senators Leibham, Harsdorf, Cowles, S. Fitzgerald, Lazich and Grothman; cosponsored by Representatives Nerison, Townsend, M. Williams, LeMahieu, Kerkman, Murtha, Spanbauer, Gunderson, Strachota, Nygren, Vos and Mursau.

February 12, 2009      Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

February 26, 2009      **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present:    (7)      Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent:    (0)      None.

##### Appearances For

- Lee Nerison — 96th Assembly District
- Joseph Leibham — 9th Senate District

##### Appearances Against

- Rick Kleist — Wisconsin DOT

##### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

##### Registrations For

- Mary Williams — 87th Assembly District

##### Registrations Against

- None.

##### Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 22, 2010      Failed to pass pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.

Elizabeth Novak  
Committee Clerk





Remarks of Representative Lee Nerison  
on Senate Bill 58  
Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry,  
and Natural Resources  
February 26, 2009

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Good morning, Chair Holperin and committee members. Thank you for having a public hearing today on Senate Bill 58 which allows the Department of Transportation to contract with third-party testers to conduct road tests for "Class D" vehicle operators.

This issue really hits home for me. The 96<sup>th</sup> Assembly District that I represent in western Wisconsin, including Crawford and Vernon counties and parts of Monroe and Richland counties, currently only has one Department of Motor Vehicles service center in Prairie du Chien that is open one day a month. And, Prairie du Chien is slated to close in the coming months, leaving us with no DMV centers.

When the DMV service center closed in Viroqua in December 2006, it left a big void for me and my fellow Vernon County residents. We're now forced to drive at least an hour each way to Onalaska, Richland Center, or Prairie du Chien for driver's license and vehicle registration services.

I hear from folks back home all the time about how this is a hardship for them to take at least a day off from work, often unpaid time, to take a child or grandchild to get a drivers' license test. I am authoring this bill along with Senator Leibham to help address this situation that families face every day.

This situation will only become worse as forty more DMV locations throughout Wisconsin are slated for closure in the current budget. Soon, these service center closures will be affecting all of us. We will be hearing from our constituents who will be struggling with getting appointments for drivers' license testing.

I hope to have the support of this committee to move Senate Bill 58 forward, so that we can work together to help alleviate long wait times for drivers' license services. It is a very real need that our constituents will be faced with even more as more service centers close.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



**SB-58**

Date ?

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

I'm here today to provide information on Senate Bill 58 relating to permitting 3rd party testers to administer driving skills tests for Class D licenses.

There are potential issues associated with this bill. While DMV currently charges \$15 for up to three tests, this bill would allow 3<sup>rd</sup> party testers to charge a fee they believe is appropriate.

Currently, DMV schedules exams by telephone and using an online application that allows tests to be scheduled up to 11 weeks in the future. As of Wednesday, February 25, there were over 11,700 Class D skills tests appointments available for scheduling statewide.

Based upon the fact that it is likely that DMV costs to take tests would be lower than 3<sup>rd</sup> party costs, and because those taking the test from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties would still need to visit a DMV service center to obtain their license, we don't believe the number of tests performed by 3<sup>rd</sup> parties will be great. For the fiscal estimate, we used the assumption that 3rd party testers would perform 10% of all Class D skills tests after the program is fully operational.

This reduction in tests would equate to a loss of about \$124,000 in annual revenue due to loss of fees paid to DMV.

If 3<sup>rd</sup> party testers were allowed, DMV would need to do site visits and audits to ensure quality control on the exams being offered in the interest of protecting public safety. This would be similar to the activities we currently conduct with regard to 3rd party testers for commercial drivers.

If we assume 3rd party testers would conduct 10% of the tests, we would need to employ two permanent employees for the regular annual audit and inspection and a part-time LTE to perform covert audits. These additional positions would be added at a cost of \$117,500 annually in salaries and fringe benefits bringing the total annual fiscal impact to almost \$242,000.

**Conclusion:**

**Thank you for taking my testimony on this bill.**

**The department has reduced wait times for skills tests by implementing best practices statewide and increasing the number of examiners.**

**The Division of Motor Vehicles is uniquely positioned to provide this service to the citizens of this state. We provide uniform training to every examiner and have a set of expectations for their performance that are applied uniformly. The department would be unable to guarantee that same quality and consistency of skills testing if performed by 3<sup>rd</sup> party testers. Additionally, 3<sup>rd</sup> party testers could find themselves in competition with other 3<sup>rd</sup> party testers, and there could be pressure to have a higher passing rate in order to attract students.**

**For the reasons cited above involving public safety, the annual revenue reduction and unfunded staffing requirements, we oppose this proposal. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss these issues.**