



2019 ASSEMBLY BILL 578

October 25, 2019 - Introduced by Representatives SPIROS, CONSIDINE, KNODL, KULP, MURSAU, OLDENBURG, PLUMER, RAMTHUN, TAUCHEN, TUSLER and WICHGERS, cosponsored by Senators PETROWSKI, OLSEN and TIFFANY. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

- 1 **AN ACT to amend** 343.055 (1) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** commercial driver
2 license waiver for certain operation of commercial motor vehicles by farmers.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill expands an exception from the commercial driver license (CDL) requirement for certain use of commercial motor vehicles (CMVs) by farmers.

Under current law, the definition of “commercial motor vehicle” includes a single vehicle or combination vehicle with a gross combination weight rating, registered weight, or actual gross weight (generally, the weight of vehicle while carrying a full load) of 26,001 or more pounds inclusive of a towed unit with a gross vehicle weight rating, registered weight, or actual gross weight of more than 10,000 pounds.

A person may not, in general, operate a CMV without a valid CDL. Current law, however, provides several exceptions from the CDL requirement allowing, for example, fire fighters, law enforcement officers, and rescue squad members who hold valid operators’ licenses other than CDLs to operate CMVs under specified circumstances. Another current exception allows farmers to use a CMV without holding a CDL if all of the following apply: 1) the use is within 150 miles of the operator’s farm; 2) the CMV is used to transport agricultural products, farm machinery, or farm supplies, including hazardous materials requiring placarding, to or from a farm; and 3) the CMV is operated and controlled by a farmer.

This bill eliminates requirement 1) from the CDL exception for farmers and family members or employees of a farmer, except when transporting hazardous materials. Thus, under this bill, a farmer or family member or employee of a farmer

