



JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

Senate Bill 642

January 12, 2022

Good morning, Madam Chairwoman and members of the committee, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today on Senate Bill 642. This bill was drafted at the request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to bring Wisconsin into conformity with new federal regulations and make sure we continue to receive associated federal funding.

Under a new federal regulation, certain applicants for commercial driver's license must successfully complete entry-level driver training before being licensed. This includes applicants who apply for a CDL for the first time, who upgrade their CDL (for example, from Class B to Class A) and those who attempt to obtain a passenger, school bus, or hazardous materials endorsement for the first time. These regulations are not retroactive and do not apply to individuals who already hold a valid CDL or the S, P, or H endorsement prior to February 7, 2022.

In short, the regulations require that entry-level drivers must complete his or her entry-level driving requirements with a training provider that is listed on the Training Provider Registry administered by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Only registered training providers are able to submit certification of the driver's training to the Registry. In turn, training providers are required to comply with federal regulations concerning the required curriculum, instructors, facilities, and vehicles used in the training.

This bill incorporates these new entry-level driving training requirements in the federal regulations into Wisconsin statutes. Compliance is necessary to ensure the state's continued receipt of federal funds for commercial motor carrier safety and enforcement activities in the amount of approximately \$4 million per fiscal year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak on this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

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JOHN SPIROS

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Testimony on Senate Bill 642 Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Thank you Chairwoman Felzkowski and members of the Senate Committee on Insurance, Licensing and Forestry for allowing me to submit testimony on Senate Bill 642, relating to entry-level training requirements for applicants for commercial driver licenses (CDLs) and certain endorsements.

This bill is a request of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (DOT) to update state statute with the federal changes in 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 380. In order to remain in compliance with federal regulations, the state must update the statutes to continue to receive funding from the Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program. Wisconsin receives around \$4 million each fiscal year in these federal funds.

The changes in the CFR create standards for the training and licensing of entry level commercial drivers and the regulation of commercial driver education schools. SB 642 implements these standards to require those who apply for a CDL for the first time or upgrade their CDL, and those who seek to obtain a passenger, school bus, or hazardous materials endorsement to successfully complete training. Additionally, the bill clarifies the training provider requirements for the instruction of employees, non-employees, and their instructors who provide classroom and behind-the-wheel education to their customers for the purposes of obtaining commercial driver licenses.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to share testimony in support of this bill.