

COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSE REVISIONS



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FISCAL ANALYSIS

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SENATE BILL 1232 (S-1)

Sponsor: Sen. John J. H. Schwarz

House Committee: Transportation

FLOOR ANALYSIS - 5/30/02

Analyst(s): Steve Stauff

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 1232 would amend the Michigan Vehicle Code by revising requirements for obtaining and maintaining a commercial driver license, with an effective date for the bill of October 1, 2002. The bill would require the Secretary of State to check with a national register before issuing an original, renewal, or upgrade of a commercial driver license to an out-of-state applicant. It would require the Secretary of State to immediately revoke or suspend all vehicle group designations on an operator's or chauffeur's license upon notification of the driver's failure to follow railroad safety precautions. The bill would require all commercial vehicles to follow Federal safety precautions at railroad crossings. The bill also makes requirements on the Secretary of State, police officers and judicial officers for the handling of suspended or revoked licenses and requires new procedures for the application or renewal of an operator or chauffeur license.

The bill will have an indeterminate fiscal impact on State government. There could be cost savings due to a reduction of the number of transactions in branch offices with the new renewal by mail option, and as well the deletion of the requirement that revoked or suspended licenses are to be held by the Department of State. With potential costs savings to the Department of State, costs allocated to the Michigan Transportation Fund may be reduced and therefore could have a positive fiscal impact on local units of government through the Department of Transportation distribution of MTF revenue.