

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass the A-Engrossed Measure
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Monnes Anderson, George L, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Deckert
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Transfers the responsibility for a medical review of driver eligibility from the State Health Officer to a medical determination officer at the Department of Transportation. Allows the department to employ or enter into an agreement with a qualified medical professional to perform duties assigned to the medical determination officer. Entitles a person denied driving privileges to a contested case hearing.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Improved confidentiality of client records
- Medical Waiver and At-Risk Driver programs
- Separation between medical determination and administrative sanction
- Appeal process

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Since the 1940's, the State Health Officer within the Department of Human Services, or his/her designee, has had a statutory obligation to review medical eligibility for driver's license applicants with specified medical conditions. The Department of Transportation administers the At-Risk Driver Program (for automobile drivers) and the Medical Waiver Program (for commercial driver license holders). Under these programs, drivers with certain medical conditions may request a certificate of eligibility from the State Health Officer certifying that their medical condition does not impair their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. The State Health Officer does not perform a medical examination of the applicant, but reviews the medical records submitted by the applicant and medical professionals. House Bill 2176-A removes the State Health Officer as the certifying entity, and establishes certification responsibility with the Department of Transportation's medical determination officer. The department anticipates hiring or contracting for a part-time licensed physician to conduct the reviews. The medical determination process will remain separated from the authority to take administrative action on licenses and from the contested case hearings appeals process.

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This summary has not been adopted or officially endorsed by action of the committee.