

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action:	Do Pass
Vote:	4 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	George L., Monnes Anderson, Starr, Metsger
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Deckert
Prepared By:	Janet Adkins, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	5/10

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Removes smaller public transit vehicles from the definition of “commercial motor vehicle” and thus eliminates a requirement for their operators to hold commercial driver’s licenses. Removes from the definition those vehicles under 26,001 pounds designed to transport fewer than 16 passengers.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- 1992 advice from the Department of Transportation
- Federal compliance not affected by measure
- Impracticality of commercial testing and requirements for small transit vehicle drivers
- Confusing nature of requirement and exemption

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: Current law requires that operators of transit and transportation district vehicles have a commercial driver’s license (CDL) regardless of the size of the vehicle or its passenger capacity. There is an exception for volunteer drivers of smaller vehicles (under 26,000 pounds and fewer than 16 passengers). Ride Connection and other small nonprofit providers of special transportation services commonly use mini-vans and other small vehicles to transport seniors and the disabled. Because they receive funds from, or are under contract with, transit districts, there is a level of uncertainty regarding CDL requirements. Ride Connection has depended on 1992 advice from the Department of Transportation that its drivers were not required to obtain a CDL, but both providers and the department agree that a statutory change would best clarify the situation. By removing vehicles up to 26,000 pounds and fewer than 16 passengers from the definition of commercial motor vehicle, House Bill 3380 eliminates the CDL requirement for operators of such vehicles. The CDL requirements will still apply to all operators of larger transit vehicles.