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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1161

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill 1161 proposes to make changes to meet the requirement of a federal regulation (49 CFR §384.210) and improve enforcement by specifying language to prohibit the court-issuance of a hardship license to a commercial driver. Legislation is needed to limit this restricted license to non CDL holders and bring state practice into compliance with federal regulation. In addition, for consistency, this change will apply to drivers with a category four driver's license who operate commercial vehicles.

The Department of Transportation supports this bill. We believe this legislation will enhance the safety of commercial motor vehicle operation on our highways by seeking to ensure that only safe drivers operate commercial motor vehicles.

Failure to enact the changes required in the FMCSA regulation could result in the loss of approximately \$4,600,000 (or 5 percent) of federal-aid highway funds for the first year of non-compliance and \$9,300,000 (or 10 percent) per year thereafter.

Motor Carrier Safety Assistance Program (MCSAP) grant funds could also be withheld for each year of noncompliance. In fiscal year 2007-2008, the state received \$660,667 in MCSAP grant funds.