

Date of Hearing: June 2, 2020

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 2141 (Mathis) – As Amended March 4, 2020

Policy Committee: Transportation Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: No Reimbursable: No

**SUMMARY:**

This bill authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to waive the knowledge portion of the test for a commercial driver's license for an applicant who is a current or former member of the Armed Forces of the United States and who, within the past year, has certain commercial military vehicle driving experience and has a clean driving record. This authorization is consistent with federal regulation.

In addition, the bill removes an existing statutory prohibition against state policies that recognize the training and experience individuals gain while serving in the armed forces from resulting in the waiving of any fees required by law for a commercial driver's license.

**FISCAL EFFECT:**

Minor, absorbable costs to DMV to update internal policies and procedures, create new certification forms and update DMV publications and website content.

This bill removes from statute a prohibition against waiving any fees required by law for a commercial driver's license; however, the bill does not authorize DMV to waive commercial driver's license fees for current or former members of the armed forces. Presumably, DMV would not waive fees for such individuals, absent explicit legislative authorization to do so.

**COMMENTS:**

**Background and Purpose.** Current law requires a person operating a commercial vehicle to possess a valid commercial driver's license of the class corresponding to the type and size of commercial vehicle driven. To obtain a commercial driver's license, a person must successfully complete a DMV examination that includes a driving portion and a knowledge portion. Existing federal regulation allows states to waive either, or both, the driving portion and the knowledge portion of the commercial driver's license examination for current and former members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have relevant military training and experience operating motor vehicles comparable to a commercial vehicle. Presently, California waives the driving portion of the commercial driver's license examination for military qualified current and past members of the armed forces. According to the author:

There should be no legislative statutes explicitly requiring our veterans to pay fees. These individuals have given so much to our country; the least we could do is allow for a waiving of fees should DMV choose to do so. Moreover, recent federal regulatory changes to the Troops to

Trucks program have sought to remove additional barriers to employment; this measure codifies these changes. With these small steps, we can further streamline a path to employment for our veterans.

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