

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

English proficiency-commercial motor vehicle drivers.

Sponsored by: Joint Transportation, Highways & Military
Affairs Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; requiring operators of
2 commercial motor vehicles to demonstrate proficiency in the
3 English language; prohibiting operators of commercial motor
4 vehicles who cannot demonstrate English language
5 proficiency from operating commercial motor vehicles as
6 specified; requiring notice from law enforcement to motor
7 carriers and owners of cargo as specified; providing civil
8 and criminal penalties; providing definitions; making
9 conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.

10

11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

12

1 **Section 1.** W.S. 31-18-608 is created to read:

2

3 **31-18-608. English language proficiency for operators**
4 **of commercial vehicles; penalties.**

5

6 (a) As used in this section, "proficiency in the
7 English language" means an operator of a commercial vehicle
8 can demonstrate proficiency of the English language
9 sufficiently to:

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11 (i) Converse with the general public in the
12 English language;

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14 (ii) Understand highway traffic signs and signals
15 in the English language;

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17 (iii) Respond to official inquiries in the
18 English language; and

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20 (iv) Make entries on reports and records in the
21 English language.

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23

(b) No operator of a commercial vehicle shall operate a commercial vehicle within this state if the operator is unable to demonstrate proficiency in the English language.

(c) Any operator of a commercial vehicle who violates subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) for each violation and shall be prohibited from operating a commercial vehicle within this state until the operator is able to demonstrate proficiency in the English language.

STAFF COMMENT

The Committee may wish to consider how an operator of a commercial vehicle can demonstrate proficiency in the English language to avoid being prohibited from operating under this statute. The Oklahoma statute does not specify how such proficiency should be demonstrated.

Tennessee 2025 House Bill 1023 requires the Commissioner of Safety to suspend a person's commercial driver's license if the person is issued an out-of-service order or is otherwise found to be unable to read and speak the English language sufficiently. The commercial driver's license suspension would remain in effect until the driver demonstrates an ability to read and speak the English language sufficiently by passing a test administered by the Department of Safety.

1 (d) Any operator of a commercial vehicle who operates
2 a commercial vehicle within this state while under the
3 prohibition imposed by subsection (c) of this section
4 shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a misdemeanor and
5 shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand
6 dollars (\$1,000.00), by imprisonment for not more than
7 ninety (90) days, or both.

8

9 (e) A motor carrier whose operator has violated
10 subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil
11 penalty of three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) for each
12 violation.

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14 (f) The highway patrol division, enforcement officer
15 or peace officer who issued a citation for a violation
16 under this section shall immediately hold the commercial
17 vehicle and shall notify the motor carrier of the location
18 of any commercial vehicle involved in the violation. Upon
19 payment of the civil penalty imposed under subsection (e)
20 of this section and presentation of an operator who meets
21 all requirements under law to operate a commercial vehicle
22 within this state, the motor carrier may take possession of
23 the commercial vehicle. If a motor carrier is unable to

1 either pay the civil penalty imposed under subsection (e)
2 of this section or present a qualified operator not later
3 than twelve (12) hours after receiving notification under
4 this subsection, the highway patrol division, enforcement
5 officer or peace officer shall notify the owner of any
6 cargo being transported by the commercial vehicle. Upon
7 receiving the notification required by this subsection, the
8 cargo owner may arrange for the transfer of the cargo to
9 another commercial vehicle.

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11 *****
12 *****
13 STAFF COMMENT
14 The Committee may wish to consider the following:
15 • What happens if law enforcement cannot determine who
16 the cargo owner is or if the cargo owner cannot be
17 reached?
18 • What happens if the cargo owner does not arrange for a
19 transfer of the cargo to another commercial vehicle?
20 Is the cargo then forfeited?
21 • Is the 12 hour time period for a motor carrier to pay
22 the civil penalty and present a qualified operator
23 enough time?
24 • How does this subsection interact with the civil
25 forfeiture process outlined in W.S. 7-2-105.

26 *****
27 *****
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29 Section 2. W.S. 31-18-701 by creating a new subsection
30 (d) is amended to read:

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1 31-18-701. Specific crimes and penalties;
2 enforcement.

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4 (d) The highway patrol division, any other enforcement
5 officers designated by the department and any peace officer
6 of any county or municipality shall:

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8 (i) Be charged with the duty of policing and
9 enforcing the provisions of W.S. 31-18-608; and

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11 (ii) Have the authority to issue citations for
12 violations for any provisions of W.S. 31-18-608.

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14 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

15
16 (END)