

SUBJECT: Requiring the DPS to administer skills tests to certain individuals

COMMITTEE: Transportation — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Canales, Raney, Ashby, Davis, Gamez, Caroline Harris,
Landgraf, Lozano, Ordaz, Patterson, Perez

0 nays

2 absent — Lujan, Romero

WITNESSES: For — Martin Garsee, National Association of Publicly Funded
Truck Driving Schools (*Registered, but did not testify*: Steven Albright,
Associated General Contractors of Texas- Highway Heavy Utility and
Industrial Branch; Benjamin Shepherd, TransForce Group)

Against — None

On — Lisa Daughtry, Texas Department of Public Safety

DIGEST: HB 1846 would revise the Transportation Code to require, rather than
authorize, the Department of Public Safety to administer a skills test
required for a commercial driver’s license to a person who held a
commercial learner’s permit issued by another state or jurisdiction.

On completion of the skills test, the department would be required to send
the results to the state or jurisdiction that issued the person’s commercial
learner’s permit.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:** HB 1846 would help to address the state’s truck driver shortage by
ensuring that individuals with commercial learner’s permits from out of
state could take the tests required for a commercial driver’s license in
Texas. The driver shortage has contributed to higher costs, delays, and
reduced productivity in transportation. Under current law, the DPS may

conduct a skills test for an out-of-state student applying for a CDL in Texas, but is not required to do so. This means that many students have to travel back to the state that issued their learner's permit in order to be licensed, making it less likely that they will work and drive in Texas.

While the change proposed by HB 1846 would require some upfront expenditure by the state, it is estimated that the number of CDL skills tests would be increased by 25%. Making it easier for more truck drivers to begin working in the state could enhance transportation capacity, lower costs, create jobs, and advance economic development in Texas.

CRITICS
SAY:

No concerns identified.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 1846 would have an estimated negative impact of about \$18 million to general revenue related funds through fiscal 2024-25.