

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: Original
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 1567
AUTHOR: Jeffries, Kevin

BILL SUMMARY: Firefighting equipment: firefighting endorsement.

The bill would require an applicant for a firefighter endorsement to submit, instead of a physician-signed medical examination report, self-reporting health information on a form approved by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for the authorization to operate firefighting equipment with a class C driver's license and to submit the health information every two years thereafter.

FISCAL SUMMARY

The Department of Motor Vehicles estimates costs to be minor and absorbable.

COMMENTS

Finance is neutral on this bill because it would restore the self-reporting health information option for operators of firefighting equipment that had been allowed before January 2011.

Chapter 360, Statutes 2010 (AB 1648/Jeffries), established a firefighter endorsement and authorized the operation of firefighting equipment by a holder of a non-commercial driver's license with a firefighter endorsement. This bill also established new standards for the reporting of medical or health information requiring that a physician provide a medical examination for each firefighter applicant.

Prior to AB 1648, applicants for a restricted firefighter driver's license could submit medical information in the form of a health questionnaire (self-certifying medical/health information) or a medical examination report (medical information signed by a doctor). The author's office contends that the new required medical examinations "are reported as being short visits, less than fifteen minutes, mainly consisting of the physician questioning the patient in order to provide answers to the form's questionnaire. This causes no difference to the information obtained by the DMV than a self-reported form. This provides no additional medical benefit to our firefighters or their ability to offer public safety. Instead this practice only adds cost to our already struggling fire departments."

This bill would allow applicants and holders of a non-commercial driver's license with the new firefighter endorsement to submit the health questionnaire as allowed prior to AB 1648, thereby alleviating concerns expressed by fire districts that the increased medical requirements impose an unnecessary burden.

Additionally, federal law does not require a medical examination by a physician for a firefighter endorsement.

Related Legislation: Chapter 360, Statutes of 2010 (AB 1648/Jeffries) changed the type of license needed to operate firefighting equipment from a class A or B commercial driver's license class C driver's license with a firefighter endorsement, and allowed firefighter without an endorsement to operate equipment during training. This bill also included the requirement that health information be provided by a physician.

Analyst/Principal (0744) K.Amann	Date	Program Budget Manager Mark Hill	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

BILL ANALYSIS--(CONTINUED)

AUTHOR

AMENDMENT DATE

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Original

AB 1567

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)					Fund Code
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)					
	CO	PROP					
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012 FC	2012-2013 FC	2013-2014	
2740/DMV	SO	No		-----	No/Minor Fiscal Impact	-----	0044
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>						
0044	Motor Vehicle Account, STF						