

Iowa Department of Transportation

Iowa DOT Legislative Updates

Iowa Freight Advisory Council - June 16, 2023



2023 Legislation Updates

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2023 Legislation

Behind the Wheel Instructors (SF 157)

- **Summary:** SF 157 allows certified behind-the-wheel instructors to complete the final drive test in a certified drivers education program. Previously only licensed teachers were able to complete the final drive test.
- **Impact:** No impact on Iowa DOT's processes for licensing and conducting drive exams. The final drive test conducted by a behind-the-wheel instructor as part of a drivers ed course is not equivalent to a drive exam conducted by our certified drive examiners.
- **Effective:** July 1, 2023
- **Status:** Signed by Governor

2023 Legislation

Third party CDL testing (HF 257)

- **Summary:** HF 257 expands who is able to be authorized to be a third-party CDL tester and allows the DOT to adopt rules regarding who may qualify as a third-party tester.
- **Impact:** Eventually, there will be more third-party CDL testers. We may eventually see a reduction in the levels of CDL knowledge and skills tests administered by state/county locations.
- Currently, more than 50% of CDL skills tests in Iowa are conducted by third parties.
- The process for transmission and retrieval of third-party CDL test results vial AutoTest and CSTIMS will not change.
- **Effective:** July 1, 2023 but the change will take time to be fully implemented
- **Status:** Signed by Governor

2023 Legislation

Federal CDL Compliance (HF 258)

- **Summary:** HF 258 adds authority for DOT to implement the Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse (DACH) requirements in November 2024 and cleans up CMV penalties per FMCSA 2021 APR.
- **Impact:** Ensures Iowa's compliance with federal CDL regulations and retains millions in federal highway funding.
- Beginning in November 2024, driver's license issuance staff will have to complete an additional check for all CDL/CLP applicants to make sure the driver doesn't have any unresolved drug or alcohol violations. More information will be coming next year.
- **Effective: Status:** Signed by Governor

2023 Legislation

Restricted CDL (HF 335)

- **Summary:** HF335 expands eligibility for restricted CDLs to be issued to additional farm-related service industries that are allowed under Federal Regulation that Iowa had not yet adopted.
- **Impact:** No change in the issuance process for RCDLs. There may be more individuals interested in the restricted CDL (e.g., custom harvesters) who previously weren't eligible to use the restricted CDL.
- **Effective:** July 1, 2023
- **Status:** Signed by Governor

2023 Legislation

Special Situation Single-Trip Permits (SF 153)

- **Summary:** SF 153 makes the existing single-trip permit for motor carriers broader for special or emergency situations.
- **Impact:** DOT and local agencies may issue a single-trip permit for special or emergency situations when the DOT declares a special or emergency situation exists. The permit allows the vehicle to exceed weight limits in Iowa Code 321.463 for either the combined gross weight, the gross weight on any axle, or both.
- **Effective:** July 1, 2023
- **Status:** Signed by Governor

2023 Legislation

All-Systems Overweight Permit Changes/Amber Lights (SF 527)

- **Summary:** SF 527 makes changes to a permit created in 2022 legislation and removes DOT authority to require warning lights for certain overweight-only vehicles.
- **Impact:** by July 1, 2025, local authorities (counties and cities) must let permit holders of this permit travel on paved farm-to-market roads, and highways or streets designated as a truck route, or provide reasons to the DOT that these roads cannot tolerate the weight. As of July 1, 2023, certain overweight-only vehicles are no longer required to display amber lights.
- **Effective:** July 1, 2023
- **Status:** Signed by Governor

2023 Legislation

Hydroexcavation Equipment (SF 154)

- **Summary:** SF 154 adds hydroexcavation equipment to the list of vehicles, equipment, and apparatus exempted from certain size, weight, load, and permit requirements of Iowa Code chapter 321 and 321E.
- **Impact:** Hydroexcavation equipment is relatively new to Iowa. This legislation clarifies that this equipment does not need to be permitted. But this equipment will need to be registered.
- **Effective:** July 1, 2023
- **Status:** Signed by Governor



2023 Legislation

Motor Vehicle Enforcement (MVE) and Bureau of Investigation & Identity Protection (BIIP) (SF 513)

- **Summary:** SF 513 transfers MVE to the Department of Public Safety, and also limits the scope of MVD's BIIP peace officers to the investigation and enforcement of MVD-related transactions and regulatory functions. BIIP officers may still use force in emergent circumstances.
- **Impact:** DPS/DOT staff are working through the transition to ensure collaboration and continuity of service and commercial enforcement duties.
- BIIP officers will continue to perform their current investigative, enforcement, and training duties for the MVD/treasurers.
- **Effective:** July 1, 2023
- **Status:** Signed by Governor



THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION

