

TESTIMONY OF

Jackie Darr, Permit Office Supervisor ND Highway Patrol

Good morning, Chairman Clemens and members of the Senate Transportation Committee. My name is Jackie Darr and I am the Permit Office Supervisor for the North Dakota Highway Patrol. I am here to provide testimony in support of House Bill 1060.

This bill amends N.D.C.C. 24-18-04 by adding the words “excluding the interstate system”.

This change would allow industry to utilize their 129,000 permit on the interstate system over 80,000 pounds and under 105,501 pounds. Companies that purchase the 129,000 permit for 30 days or an annual permit are currently required to also get an interstate permit when traveling over 80,000 but under 105,501 pounds. The change would effectively allow them to use the 129,000 permit in lieu of an interstate permit.

This bill amends N.D.C.C. 39-12-02 by allowing the motor carrier industry to purchase permits for a 30-day period. In addition, it allows for annual permits to be purchased for 365 days or to expire December 31st.

The first portion of this change would allow the trucking industry the option to purchase current annual permits for a 30-day period. Companies with truck breakdowns or that hire someone to assist for a short term would prefer this option. The option would also be beneficial to the ag industry during planting and harvest season. All permits would be legal weight or bridge their weights due to axle configurations. This change would not affect any bridge structures for travel due to weight limitations. The price suggested for these 30-day permits is \$50. This would follow the prices of other 30-day permits in North Dakota as all are currently either \$50 or \$100.

The second portion of this change allows companies to choose if they purchase the permits for 365 days as we currently allow or to have the permit expire December 31st each year. The construction industry has requested this change. Construction season is limited in our state due to weather. This would allow them to purchase all permits at once instead of waiting for a current permit to expire.

This bill amends N.D.C.C. 39-12-05-02 which would also allow industry to purchase permits for 365 days or expire December 31st.

This portion like the second portion of N.D.C.C. 39-12-02 allows companies to choose if they purchase the permits for 365 days as we currently allow or to have the permit expire December 31st each year. The construction industry has requested this change. Construction season is limited in our state due to weather. This would allow them to purchase all permits at once instead of waiting for a current permit to expire.

These changes were discussed with the North Dakota Motor Carrier Association and the Association of General Contractors.

This concludes my testimony. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.