

SOUTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COUNCIL

FISCAL NOTE, 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

FISCAL NOTE 2019-SB117A

SB 117 authorize Spanish to be used in the process of issuing certain driver licenses and permits.

SB 117 directs the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to offer license and permit applications, examination materials, and conduct written examinations in Spanish, in addition to English, for noncommercial driver licenses and permits.

According to DPS, 26,268 non-commercial exams were taken at state driver exam stations in fiscal year 2018. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2013-2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 1.3% of South Dakota citizens 18 years and over speak Spanish at home. Applying 1.3% to the total operator exams of 26,268, it is estimated that 341 driver exams may be taken in Spanish.

In a fiscal year 2019 contract between the Unified Judicial System (UJS) and a contractor for Spanish translation services, the cost to translate documents to Spanish is 15 to 20 cents per word. Applying the average from the UJS contract of 17.5 cents per word, the estimated cost to translate the driver license application, driver license and motorcycle exams, driver license and motor cycle manuals, and other documents DPS indicated are required, is \$13,096.

Depending on the document, it is estimated between 100 - 600 copies will need to be printed, which includes driver license applications, driver license and motorcycle exams, driver license and motor cycle manuals, and other documents DPS indicated are required in Spanish. Printing costs are estimated at \$2,430. Mailing costs are estimated to be insignificant as DPS Driver Licensing employees routinely travel; therefore, most manuals and forms are transported by the employees.

The cost for translation of required documents is estimated to be \$13,096. The cost for printing and mailing is estimated to be \$2,430. The total cost is estimated to be \$15,526.

APPROVED BY: /s/ Jason Hancock

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