



April 5, 2024

To: Wright County Legislators
From: Wright County Board of Commissioners
re: DVS testing bill (SF 4895/HF 4987)

Board of Commissioners

Tina Diedrick, District 1
Darek Vetsch, District 2
Jeanne Holland, District 3
Nadine Schoen, District 4
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Dear legislators,

The Wright County Board of Commissioners would appreciate your assistance in getting approval of the language revision requested in Senate File 4895 (which is set for a hearing on Monday, April 9) and House File 4987 that would remove a stipulation that currently prohibits third-party proctors – such as the Wright County License Center – to continue administering written tests if the applicant has failed three previous tests. Under the current system, a fourth test or subsequent tests must be taken at a state-run exam station.

The manner in which the Class D knowledge tests are administered is virtually identical to how they're administered by third-party proctors (like the Wright County License Center) with one notable exception. The DVS exam stations are massively overloaded with testing applicants and the wait time to get a written test appointment can be out over 30 days depending on the location, or the applicant must be willing to drive farther distances for a sooner appointment. For applicants seeking a road test appointment in the Twin Cities metro area routinely, appointments take two to three months to find availability, or again the applicant is forced to travel more than 100 miles to an exam station in Greater Minnesota.

Because of this statutory requirement prohibiting third-party proctors from administering a fourth test, the Wright County License Center was forced to turn away 182 individuals from May to December 2023. In the first three months of 2024, we had to turn away 73 people looking to take the test.

We respectfully ask that you vote in favor of the language amendment in Senate File 4895 and House File 4987 to assist citizens looking to take their written driver's exam in a much more timely fashion and keeping the proceeds brought in (\$16 for an application and \$10 for each test) to remain local.

Sincerely,

The Wright County Board of Commissioners

Tina Diedrick
Commissioner, District 1

Darek Vetsch
Board Chair
Commissioner, District 2

Jeanne Holland
Commissioner, District 3

Nadine Schoen
Vice Chair
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