



July 27, 2017

The legislature is still on Summer Recess, however the Governor signed once piece of legislation this week which is featured below. The legislature will reconvene on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

[AB 1126](#) (Committee on Agriculture) allows the continued use of carbon monoxide to control burrowing rodent pests. In 2011 Farm Bureau sponsored legislation to legalize the use of carbon monoxide for rodent control. However, that bill included a sunset that eliminated the use January 1, 2018. AB 1126 (Committee on Agriculture) originally would have extended the allowance indefinitely, however the Senate Environmental Quality Committee amended the bill to extend the sunset until January 1, 2023. This week, the Governor signed AB 1126 into law. Farm Bureau is the sponsor of AB 1126.

[SB 158](#) (Bill Monning, D-Carmel), mentioned in the Friday Review two weeks ago, was amended as indicated in that edition to resolve our concerns regarding new requirements to be imposed for getting Class A and Class B Commercial Drivers Licenses (CDLs). Those additional requirements would include new entry level requirements for drivers to be determined by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) as well as new behind the wheel training requirements.

Under the provisions of the bill in order to obtain a Class A commercial driver's license (CDL) one would have to have a minimum of 15 hours of behind-the-wheel (BTW) training (previous version of the bill would have required 30 hours of BTW). Those seeking a Class B license would also have to have 15 hours of BTW at least 7 hours of which would have to be on a public roadway. Farm Bureau reported that working with CCA we had secured amendments to exempt agriculture from all of the training provisions until 2023 which allowed us to support the bill.

Now, objections have been raised that those amendments result in a conflict with federal law. As such, the broad agricultural exemption language is now being amended out of the bill. If that happens Farm Bureau will remove our support from the bill. However, we have asked the author to keep the exemption for agriculture for the behind the wheel training requirement which is not part of federal law and they are considering that request. Regardless of what happens with SB 158, a stakeholder group is being assembled including Farm Bureau to develop recommendations for obtaining CDLs for agricultural carriage and that group is to meet very soon to begin that work.