

English only drivers test heard in committee

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Debate turned heated Friday during testimony over a bill that would require Montana's written driver's test be given in English only.

House bill 302, sponsored by Representative Janna Taylor of Dayton, says the knowledge test, road test and skills test must be conducted in English.

Currently, the test is given in several different languages.

Several people spoke up opposing the bill.

They say it's not about which language you speak, but how you drive.

“Whether the test is given in Spanish, Russian, English or Chinese it's the same test, it ensures the driver understands how to obey the rules of the road.” Says Shahid Haque-Hausrath, who opposes the bill.

“This bill has turned into caring about immigration, it's not, it's about driving and driving safety.” Says Rep. Taylor.

After hearing testimony from both sides, the transportation committee will discuss the bill and vote whether to move it forward.

Story by Josh Egbert, Beartooth NBC.

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