



The LICENSE Act is a Common-Sense Supply Chain Solution

Streamline administrative processes to address the driver shortage

POSITION: Licensing procedures should be streamlined, accessible, and affordable so that current and aspiring truck drivers can obtain the documentation they need to do their jobs without navigating needless bureaucracy. ATA supports efforts that promote the efficient administration of commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) without compromising safety, such as the Licensing Individual Commercial Exam-takers Now Safely and Efficiently (LICENSE) Act (H.R. 3013, S. 1649).

BACKGROUND: The COVID-19 public health emergency provided lessons for Congress and our industry. When the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) provided flexibility on several regulatory requirements, drivers and motor carriers gained new operational efficiencies without compromising safety. For example, FMCSA issued waivers twelve times¹ since March 2020 allowing States to administer the driving skills test to any out-of-state commercial driver's license (CDL) applicant regardless of where the applicant received driver education. FMCSA also issued waivers six times² since June 2020 permitting third-party CDL skills test examiners to also administer the CDL knowledge test.

IMPACT: As is required by law, each time FMCSA reissued the waivers, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation first determined that the waivers were in the public interest and were likely to "achieve levels of safety that are equivalent to, or greater than, the levels of safety that would be obtained in the absence of the [waivers]." Especially in the context of the ongoing supply chain disruptions, the permanent incorporation of these waivers into law by enactment of the LICENSE Act will remove some of the arcane regulatory barriers that make the CDL training and testing process so arduous and help mitigate the pervasive driver shortage plaguing the trucking industry. According to FMCSA, "the continued availability of CDL knowledge testing will help maintain an adequate and sustained supply of trained CMV drivers to deliver essential supplies and persons across State lines to not only address the public health emergency, but also mitigate supply chain disruptions, support economic recovery from the effects of the emergency, and help prevent a possible shortage of CMV drivers."

SOLUTION: The LICENSE Act (H.R. 3013, S. 1649) is a prime example of how Congress can advance regulatory relief that addresses the driver shortage without compromising safety. ATA urges Congress to cosponsor and pass the LICENSE Act to provide the people who keep our supply chain running with licensing processes that respect their time and money.

For more information, please contact: ATA Legislative Affairs at 202-544-6245 or email legislativeaffairs@trucking.org

¹ FMCSA issued the "Three-Month Waiver in Response to the COVID-19 Emergency – For States and CLP Holders Operating Commercial Motor Vehicles" on March 28, 2020; June 17, 2020; October 1, 2020; January 1, 2021; February 16, 2021; May 26, 2021; August 31, 2021; November 29, 2021; February 26, 2022; May 27, 2022; August 31, 2022; and December 1, 2022.

² FMCSA issued the "Waiver for States Concerning Third Party CDL Skills Test Examiners In Response to the COVID-19 Emergency" on June 22, 2020; January 1, 2021; February 16, 2021; May 26, 2021; August 31, 2021; and November 29, 2021.