

BRIDGING THE EMPLOYMENT GAP FOR ENTRY-LEVEL CDL DRIVERS

Proviso 78.4: INS: CDL Study Committee

Businesses who utilize or depend on commercial vehicles are in desperate need of CDL drivers and this **study committee** is another step in **facilitating discussions between stakeholders** to determine ways to improve this segment of **workforce development**.

This **proviso** would **bring together** various groups representing **commercial trucking** and the **legal and insurance communities** to determine what the barriers to employment are, and how best to remove them.

- The **shortage of qualified workers** with Commercial Drivers' Licenses (CDL) is rapidly reaching a crisis point.
- A person can get a commercial driver's license at 18 years old but must wait until they are 21 years old to drive commercially between states.
- The **majority of fleets require a driver to be at least 23 years old**, and/or have at least **2 to 3 years of experience** before they will consider hiring them. (*Age and experience thresholds are higher for drivers of specialized loads and passenger buses.*) These requirements are **typically linked to the insurability of the driver and the carrier's exposure to liability**.
- A prospective CDL driver cannot get hired without experience, but can't get the mandatory experience without being employed.

INSURABILITY, LIABILITY AND MINIMUM AGE AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS HINDER THE PRIVATE SECTOR FROM HIRING ENTRY-LEVEL CDL DRIVERS

Composition of the Committee

Two members appointed by the Chairman of the **House Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee**

One member appointed by the Chairman of the **House Education & Public Works Committee**

One member appointed by the Chairman of the **Senate Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee**

One member appointed by the Chairman of the **Senate Banking and Insurance Committee**

One member appointed by the Chairman of the **Senate Transportation Committee**

One member designated by each of the following trade associations: **Carolinas Associated General Contractors; Forestry Association of South Carolina; South Carolina Trucking Association; and, the South Carolina Beverage Association**

One member designated by the **South Carolina Association for Justice**

One member designated by the **South Carolina Defense Trial Lawyers Association**

One member designated by the **Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers Association**

One member designated by the **Property Casualty Insurers Association of America**

Part 1 B Provisos
SECTION 78 - R200 - DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

78.4. (INS: CDL Study Committee) (A) In the current fiscal year, there is created the CDL Driver Insurance Study Committee to review the State's motor vehicle liability and insurance-related statutes, court decisions and administration, and the State's insurance marketplace in order to report findings and make recommendations which will foster conditions for the creation of a viable pool of qualified, insurable CDL truck drivers. From the funds appropriated, the Department of Insurance shall cover the costs of the committee and provide staffing for the committee.

(B) The committee shall be composed of:

(1) from the House, two members appointed by the Chairman of the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee and one member appointed by the Chairman of the Education & Public Works Committee.

(2) from the Senate, one member appointed by the Chairman of the Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee, one member appointed by the Chairman of Banking and Insurance, and one member appointed by the Chairman of the Transportation Committee.

(3) one member designated by the following trade associations: Carolinas Associated General Contractors, Forestry Association of South Carolina, South Carolina Trucking Association, and the South Carolina Beverage Association.

(4) one member designated by the South Carolina Association for Justice and one member designated by the South Carolina Defense Trial Lawyers Association.

(5) one member designated by the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers Association and one member designated by the Property Casualty Insurers Association of America.

**WE HOPE WE CAN COUNT ON YOUR SUPPORT AS WE WORK TOWARDS ENSURING THAT
OUR ECONOMY HAS A VIABLE, DEPENDABLE POOL OF QUALIFIED TRUCK DRIVERS.**