

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 438

BY REPRESENTATIVE VENTRELLA

CRIME: Creates the crime of unlawful operation of a commercial motor vehicle

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S.14:97.3, relative to offenses affecting the public safety; to create the crime of
3 unlawful operation of a commercial motor vehicle; to provide for penalties; to
4 provide for a definition; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:97.3 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §97.3. Unlawful operation of a commercial motor vehicle

8 A. No person who fails to meet the qualification requirements contained in
9 49 CFR Part 391 shall operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state.

10 B.(1) Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more
11 than five hundred dollars.

12 (2) Upon a second or subsequent conviction, the offender shall be fined not
13 more than one thousand dollars.

14 C. For the purposes of this Section, "commercial motor vehicle" has the
15 same meaning as provided in R.S. 32:401.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 438 Original

2026 Regular Session

Ventrella

Abstract: Creates the crime of unlawful operation of a commercial motor vehicle.

Proposed law creates the crime of unlawful operation of a commercial motor vehicle and provides for penalties consisting of a \$500 fine for a first offense and a \$1,000 fine for second or subsequent offenses.

Proposed law defines the term "commercial motor vehicle".

(Adds R.S. 14:97.3)