

DIGEST

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SB 67 Engrossed

2015 Regular Session

White

Present law requires every person who operates a motor vehicle which is designated as being in either Class "A", "B", "C", "D", or "E" by R.S. 32:408 to secure the appropriately classified driver's license with all necessary endorsements before driving or operating any such motor vehicle on any public street, road, or highway of this state.

Present law provides the following:

The only driver's license required of a full-time, regularly paid operator of an emergency medical vehicle or firefighting equipment employed by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, or a municipality, parish, fire protection district, or other political subdivision of the state, or civilian employees of the United States military who are required to operate emergency vehicles, shall be a Class "E" driver's license when operating such vehicle or equipment in the course and scope of his employment. The emergency vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be equipped with audible and visual signals as required by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules.

The only driver's license required of a driver for an industrial mutual aid response team or a volunteer operator of an emergency medical vehicle or firefighting equipment shall be a Class "E" driver's license when operating such vehicle or equipment.

Subject to the approval of the United States Department of Defense, active or reserve members of the United States military and active or reserve members of the National Guard shall be authorized to operate commercial motor vehicles or buses with a Class "E" driver's license when operating such vehicles or buses in the course and scope of military duties during a gubernatorially declared state of emergency.

The only driver's license required of an operator of an emergency command post vehicle which would otherwise meet the definition of a commercial motor vehicle, and who is employed by the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness or a parish office of emergency preparedness, shall be a Class "E" driver's license when operating such vehicle in the course and scope of his employment. Such vehicle shall be equipped with audible and visual signals as required by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules.

Proposed law retains present law and provides a licensing exception from present law for an operator of an emergency command post vehicle or other law enforcement equipment which meets the definition of a commercial motor vehicle and who is employed as a law enforcement officer when operating such vehicle or equipment in the course and scope of his employment. Requires such vehicle or equipment to be equipped with audible and visual signals required by Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration rules.

Proposed law provides that such operator is only required to have a Class "E" driver's license.

Proposed law provides that the exceptions provided for in present and proposed law shall only apply to drivers licensed by the state of Louisiana and drivers licensed by a state with which Louisiana has a reciprocity agreement.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 32:402(C)(5) and (F))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the engrossed bill:

1. Provide that the exceptions provided for in present and proposed law shall only apply to drivers licensed by the state of Louisiana and drivers licensed by a state with which Louisiana has a reciprocity agreement.