

2021 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

MTR VEHICLE/COMMERCIAL: Urges and requests the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to create commercial driver training programs to advance freight based economic development along the I-10 corridor

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to create a
3 commercial driver training and apprenticeship program to advance interstate
4 commerce freight based economic development along the Louisiana Highway 10
5 corridor.

6 WHEREAS, the trucking industry faces complex workforce challenges in an
7 increasingly competitive global marketplace; and

8 WHEREAS, the American Transportation Research Institute reported on October 27,
9 2020 that a driver shortage has been the top concern in the trucking industry for the fourth
10 time in a row; and

11 WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System was created
12 for the purpose of designing, implementing, and monitoring training programs to meet
13 specific workforce training needs that address the current and future economic needs of the
14 state and promote student success; and

15 WHEREAS, the primary objective of the commercial driver training program is to
16 increase opportunities for members of minority groups, women, and other populations;
17 including individuals with disabilities that are underrepresented in Louisiana's highway
18 construction and transportation industries; and

1 WHEREAS, commercial driver training and apprenticeship programs have been
2 proven to provide valuable driving experience; to reduce recklessness; to help prepare the
3 driver for real-life driving situations that may be experienced on the road; and to correct and
4 to identify poor driving behaviors; and

5 WHEREAS, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations,
6 specifically 49 CFR 391.11, require commercial motor vehicle drivers to be at least twenty-
7 one years old to drive interstate commerce; and

8 WHEREAS, 49 CFR 383.71 provide the requirements for commercial motor vehicle
9 drivers to obtain a commercial learner's permit at eighteen years old; and

10 WHEREAS, most states, including Louisiana, allow eighteen through twenty year
11 old drivers to operate in intrastate commerce; and

12 WHEREAS, companion bills were introduced in the United States House of
13 Representatives and the United States Senate called the "Developing Responsible
14 Individuals for a Vibrant Economy Act" (DRIVE-Safe Act, H.R. 1374), which proposed to
15 lower the age requirement for interstate drivers to eighteen, as long as drivers under the age
16 of twenty-one participated in an apprenticeship program; and

17 WHEREAS, the apprenticeship program would include separate 120-hour and 280-
18 hour probationary periods, during which eighteen through twenty year old commercial
19 driver's license holders would operate a commercial motor vehicle under the supervision of
20 an experienced driver and must achieve specific performance benchmarks before advancing;
21 and

22 WHEREAS, the apprenticeship program would permit nineteen and twenty year old
23 commercial drivers who have operated commercial motor vehicles in intrastate commerce
24 for a minimum of one year and 25,000 miles; and

25 WHEREAS, participants would not be allowed to operate vehicles hauling
26 passengers or hazardous materials or special configuration vehicles; such as, doubles, triples,
27 cargo tanks; and

28 WHEREAS, participants would drive vehicles equipped with active-braking collision
29 mitigation systems, forward-facing video event capture, and speed limiters set to sixty-five
30 miles per hour; and

1 WHEREAS, participants will meet specific program qualifications and must not have
2 any disqualifications, suspensions, or license revocations within the past two years and not
3 be under any out-of-service order; and

4 WHEREAS, a commercial driver training and apprenticeship program coupled with
5 the DRIVE-Safe Act, if enacted, would raise the bar for training standards and safety
6 technology far above what has been asked of the thousands of under twenty-one year old
7 commercial motor vehicle drivers who are currently legally driving in Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, the training and apprenticeship program is envisioned to create a safety
9 centered process for identifying, training, and empowering the safest, most responsible
10 eighteen through twenty year olds to more fully participate in the trucking industry; and

11 WHEREAS, the training and apprenticeship program will create enormous
12 opportunities for countless Louisianans seeking a high paying profession without the burden
13 of debt that comes with a four year degree.

14 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby
15 urge and request the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to design,
16 implement, and monitor training programs to advance commercial driver training standards
17 and safety commensurate with the federally proposed DRIVE-Safe Act.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Community and Technical
19 College System shall submit a written report to the House Committee on Transportation,
20 Highways, and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways, and
21 Public Works detailing its findings and recommendations prior to March 1, 2022.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the
23 Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

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)]

HCR 62 Original

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Urges and requests the La. Community and Technical College System to create commercial driver training and apprenticeship programs to advance interstate commerce freight based economic development along the La. Hwy. 10 corridor. Requires the La. and Technical College System provide a written report to the House and Senate transportation committees detailing its findings by March 1, 2022.