HLS 21RS-972 **ENGROSSED**

2021 Regular Session

1

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 62

BY REPRESENTATIVE BRASS

MTR VEHICLE/COMMERCIAL: Requests the Louisiana Community and Technical College System to create commercial driver training programs to advance training standards and safety

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.
5	WHEREAS, the trucking industry faces complex workforce challenges in an
6	increasingly competitive global marketplace; and
7	WHEREAS, the American Transportation Research Institute reported on October 27,
8	2020 that a driver shortage has been the top concern in the trucking industry for the fourth
9	time in a row; and
10	WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System was created
11	for the purpose of designing, implementing, and monitoring training programs to meet
12	specific workforce training needs that address the current and future economic needs of the
13	state and promote student success; and
14	WHEREAS, the primary objective of the commercial driver training program is to
15	increase opportunities for members of minority groups, women, and other populations;
16	including individuals with disabilities that are underrepresented in Louisiana's highway
17	construction and transportation industries; and
18	WHEREAS, commercial driver training and apprenticeship programs have been
19	proven to provide valuable driving experience; to reduce recklessness; to help prepare the

1	driver for real-life driving situations that may be experienced on the road; and to correct and
2	to identify poor driving behaviors; and
3	WHEREAS, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration regulations,
4	specifically 49 CFR 391.11, require commercial motor vehicle drivers to be at least twenty-
5	one years old to drive interstate commerce; and
6	WHEREAS, 49 CFR 383.71 provide the requirements for commercial motor vehicle
7	drivers to obtain a commercial learner's permit at eighteen years old; and
8	WHEREAS, most states, including Louisiana, allow eighteen through twenty year
9	old drivers to operate in intrastate commerce; and
10	WHEREAS, companion bills were introduced in the United States House of
11	Representatives and the United States Senate called the "Developing Responsible
12	Individuals for a Vibrant Economy Act" (DRIVE-Safe Act, H.R. 1374), which proposed to
13	lower the age requirement for interstate drivers to eighteen, as long as drivers under the age
14	of twenty-one participated in an apprenticeship program; and
15	WHEREAS, the apprenticeship program would include separate 120-hour and 280-
16	hour probationary periods, during which eighteen through twenty year old commercial
17	driver's license holders would operate a commercial motor vehicle under the supervision of
18	an experienced driver and must achieve specific performance benchmarks before advancing;
19	and
20	WHEREAS, the apprenticeship program would permit nineteen and twenty year old
21	commercial drivers who have operated commercial motor vehicles in intrastate commerce
22	for a minimum of one year and 25,000 miles; and
23	WHEREAS, participants would not be allowed to operate vehicles hauling
24	passengers or hazardous materials or special configuration vehicles; such as, doubles, triples,
25	cargo tanks; and
26	WHEREAS, participants would drive vehicles equipped with active-braking collision
27	mitigation systems, forward-facing video event capture, and speed limiters set to sixty-five
28	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 Engrossed

2021 Regular Session

Brass

Requests the La. Community and Technical College System to create commercial driver training programs to advance commercial driver training standards and safety. Requires the La. Community and Technical College System provide a written report to the House and Senate transportation committees detailing its findings by March 1, 2022.

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Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by <u>House Committee on Education</u> to the <u>original</u> resolution:

1. Make a technical change to the title of the resolution.