

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 79

BY REPRESENTATIVE JEFFERSON

A RESOLUTION

To urge and request the office of motor vehicles to simplify and clarify the process for the holder of a commercial driver's license to have their license reinstated.

WHEREAS, the reinstatement process for a holder of a commercial driver's license following a disqualification related to driving while under the influence charge is currently a convoluted and confusing process for many citizens; and

WHEREAS, both federal law and state law, R.S. 32:414.2, provide that the holder of a commercial driver's license shall be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of one year following a driving while under the influence related offense, including all of the following: a first reported submission to a chemical test in connection with an arrest while operating a commercial motor vehicle or a noncommercial motor vehicle, operating under the influence of alcohol, or operating with an alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or more; and

WHEREAS, after the one-year disqualification is over, there is no clear process for the commercial driver's license holder to have their license reinstated; and

WHEREAS, holders of commercial drivers' licenses are held to much higher standards than the general public as evidenced by the tougher laws that apply, including a disqualified license; and

WHEREAS, many of the commercial drivers who have had their license disqualified simply want to get back on the road as soon as possible so they can continue to make a living and support themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, without a concise and easily understood process for the reinstatement of their license, holders of commercial drivers' licenses are forced to turn to other avenues so that they may earn an income; and

WHEREAS, as holders of commercial drivers' licenses are held to higher standards, and their inability to get back on the road and earn an honest living leads to many societal and economic problems, the simplification and clarification of the reinstatement process for their licenses would be welcomed by stakeholders and affected groups across the board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the office of motor vehicles to study the current process for the holder of a commercial driver's license to have their license reinstated following a one-year disqualification related to a first-time offense driving while under the influence, to report their findings to the Louisiana House of Representatives at least thirty days prior to the convening of the 2015 Regular Session of the Legislature of Louisiana, and to make the findings easily visible and accessible to all commercial drivers' license holders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections and the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES