



Support for HB124

House Transportation Committee,

The Alaska Trucking Association fully supports HB 124 “An Act relating to commercial motor vehicle driver’s license requirements.” The passage of HB 124 will eliminate one of many barriers to entry for people to begin a career in trucking and transportation.

In February of 2022 the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) implemented its Entry Level Driver Training program (ELDT), establishing “Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators” This program came from years of engagement with Safety Organizations, Industry, and other Stakeholders. ELDT provides a checklist of well over 100 different skill, inspection, and knowledge requirements an applicant must prove proficient in before they are allowed to test for a CDL. In light of these new requirements, the Alaska Trucking Association views holding a regular driver’s license for a calendar year as a redundant barrier to entry into our industry.

A potential truck driver’s skill will be tested four times before being out on Alaskan roads. They will need to pass a driving test by the DMV to obtain a normal driver’s license. Their skills will be tested again during ELDT by a Registered Training Provider. Their skills will be tested a third time by the DMV when the potential driver takes the CDL test. Finally before any company lets a new driver behind the wheel, their skills will be tested by the hiring company to verify competency. ATA feels these checkpoints are adequate to ensure safety.

There is a small but growing group of truck drivers from outside of the United States that have chosen to make Alaska their home. They are qualified and want to work at their chosen profession but must wait a year before they can earn for their families and themselves. These newcomers to Alaska still would have to take ELDT and prove their skill set. HB 124 would allow these potential drivers a chance to earn a living sooner than under current laws.

The Alaska Trucking Association encourages the passage of HB124. Trucking has labor shortages at all levels of its industry and HB 124 takes a step in the right direction.

Respectfully

Joe Michel
Alaska Trucking Association