

By: Senator(s) McDaniel

To: Veterans and Military
Affairs; Highways and
Transportation

SENATE BILL NO. 2234

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTIONS 73-50-1 AND 63-1-208, MISSISSIPPI
2 CODE OF 1972, TO CLARIFY THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE MILITARY
3 FAMILY FREEDOM ACT SPECIFICALLY APPLY TO PERSONS POSSESSING
4 CERTAIN FEDERALLY APPROVED MILITARY DOCUMENTATION OF COMMERCIAL
5 DRIVING EXPERIENCE ALLOWING THE PERSON TO APPLY FOR A COMMERCIAL
6 DRIVER'S LICENSE LEARNING PERMIT; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 73-50-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
9 amended as follows:

10 73-50-1. (1) This section shall be known as the "Military
11 Family Freedom Act."

12 (2) As used in this section, the term:

13 (a) "License" means any license (other than a privilege
14 license), certificate, registration or other evidence of
15 qualification that an individual is required to obtain before he
16 or she may engage in or represent himself or herself to be a
17 member of a particular profession or occupation.

18 (b) "Occupational licensing board" means any state
19 board, commission, department or other agency in Mississippi that
20 is established for the primary purpose of regulating the entry of



21 persons into, and/or the conduct of persons within, a particular
22 profession or occupation, and which is authorized to issue
23 licenses. For the purposes of this section, the State Department
24 of Education shall be considered an occupational licensing board
25 when issuing teacher licenses under Section 37-3-2.

26 (c) "Military" means the Armed Forces or Reserves of
27 the United States, including the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast
28 Guard, Air Force, and the reserve components thereof, the National
29 Guard of any state, the military reserves of any state, or the
30 naval militia of any state.

31 (3) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an
32 occupational licensing board shall issue a license to an applicant
33 who is a member of the military, or an applicant who is married to
34 or is a dependent of a member of the military, if, upon
35 application to an occupational licensing board, the applicant
36 satisfies the following conditions:

37 (a) The applicant has been awarded a military
38 occupational specialty, completed a military program of training,
39 completed testing or equivalent training and experience, and
40 performed in the occupational specialty; or

41 (b) The applicant holds a current and valid license in
42 another state in an occupation with a similar scope of practice,
43 as determined by the occupational licensing board in Mississippi
44 and has held this license from the occupational licensing board in
45 the other state for at least one (1) year; and



46 (c) The applicant has not committed any act in the
47 other state that would have constituted grounds for refusal,
48 suspension or revocation of a license to practice that occupation
49 in Mississippi at the time the act was committed, the occupational
50 licensing board in the other state holds the applicant in good
51 standing, and the applicant does not have a disqualifying criminal
52 record as determined by the occupational licensing board in
53 Mississippi under Mississippi law; and

54 (d) The applicant did not surrender a license because
55 of negligence or intentional misconduct related to the applicant's
56 work in the occupation in another state; and

57 (e) The applicant does not have a complaint, allegation
58 or investigation pending before an occupational licensing board or
59 other board in another state that relates to unprofessional
60 conduct or an alleged crime. If the applicant has a complaint,
61 allegation or investigation pending, the occupational licensing
62 board in Mississippi shall not issue or deny a license to the
63 applicant until the complaint, allegation or investigation is
64 resolved, or the applicant otherwise satisfies the criteria for
65 licensure in Mississippi to the satisfaction of the occupational
66 licensing board in Mississippi; and

67 (f) The applicant pays all applicable fees in
68 Mississippi.

69 (4) Notwithstanding any other law, the occupational
70 licensing board shall issue a license to an applicant who is a



71 member of the military, or an applicant who is married to or is a
72 dependent of a member of the military, upon application based on
73 work experience in another state, if all the following apply:

74 (a) The applicant worked in a state that does not use a
75 license to regulate a lawful occupation, but Mississippi uses a
76 license to regulate a lawful occupation with a similar scope of
77 practice, as determined by the occupational licensing board;

78 (b) The applicant worked for at least three (3) years
79 in the lawful occupation; and

80 (c) The applicant satisfies the provisions of
81 paragraphs (c) through (f) of subsection (3) of this section.

82 (5) An occupational licensing board may require an applicant
83 to pass a jurisprudential examination specific to relevant state
84 laws in Mississippi that regulate the occupation if the issuance
85 of a license in Mississippi requires an applicant to pass a
86 jurisprudential examination specific to relevant state statutes
87 and administrative rules in Mississippi that regulate the
88 occupation.

89 (6) The occupational licensing board shall issue or deny the
90 license to the applicant within one hundred twenty days (120) days
91 after receiving an application.

92 If the application requires longer than two (2) weeks to
93 process, the occupational licensing board shall issue a temporary
94 practice permit within thirty (30) days after receiving the
95 application if the applicant submits an affidavit, under penalties



96 of perjury, affirming that he or she satisfies the provisions of
97 subsection (3) (a) or subsection (3) (b) of this section and
98 subsection (3) (c) through (e) and pays all applicable fees as
99 required by subsection (3) (f), or satisfies the provisions of
100 subsection (4) (a) through (c) and pays all applicable fees as
101 required by subsection (3) (f).

102 The applicant may practice under the temporary permit until a
103 license is granted, or until a notice to deny the license is
104 issued, in accordance with rules adopted by the occupational
105 licensing board. A temporary license will expire in three hundred
106 sixty-five (365) days after its issuance if the applicant fails to
107 satisfy the requirement for licensure in subsection (5), if
108 applicable.

109 (7) (a) The applicant may appeal any of the following
110 decisions of an occupational licensing board to a court of general
111 jurisdiction:

- 112 (i) Denial of a license;
- 113 (ii) Determination of the occupation;
- 114 (iii) Determination of the similarity of the scope
115 of practice of the license issued; or
- 116 (iv) Other determinations under this section.

117 (b) The court shall determine all questions of law,
118 including the interpretation of a constitutional or statutory
119 provision or a rule adopted by an occupational licensing board,
120 without regard to any previous determination that may have been



121 made on the question in any action before the occupational
122 licensing board.

123 (8) An occupational licensing board shall prominently print
124 the following on all license applications, any communication
125 denying a license, and on the board's website: "Pursuant to the
126 provisions of the Military Family Freedom Act, Mississippi shall
127 recognize occupational licenses obtained from other states for
128 military members and their families." An occupational licensing
129 board shall prepare and place on the board's website an annual
130 report detailing the number of applications submitted to the
131 licensing board under this section during a calendar year and the
132 actions taken by the board on the applications.

133 (9) An occupational licensing board shall adopt rules
134 necessary to implement this section by January 1, 2021. In
135 addition, an occupational licensing board shall make all
136 reasonable efforts to issue a license to an applicant for a
137 license under this section.

138 (10) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit
139 a military applicant, spouse or dependent from proceeding under
140 the existing licensure requirements established by an occupational
141 licensing board in Mississippi.

142 (11) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prevent
143 Mississippi from entering into a licensing compact or reciprocity
144 agreement with another state, foreign province or foreign country.
145 A license issued under this section is valid only in Mississippi.



146 It does not make the person eligible to work in another state
147 under an interstate compact or reciprocity agreement unless
148 otherwise provided in Mississippi law.

149 (12) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to
150 the practice of law as regulated under Section 73-3-1 et seq.

151 (13) This section preempts any ordinances of any
152 municipality, county and other political subdivisions of the State
153 of Mississippi that regulate licenses.

154 (14) This section specifically applies to the provisions of
155 Section 63-1-208, Mississippi Code of 1972, which authorizes
156 persons possessing certain federally approved military
157 documentation of commercial driving experience to apply for a
158 commercial driver's license (CDL) learning permit.

159 **SECTION 2.** Section 63-1-208, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
160 amended as follows:

161 63-1-208. (1) Except as otherwise provided, the
162 commissioner shall not issue a commercial driver's license and
163 commercial learner's permit to any person under the age of
164 twenty-one (21) years.

165 (2) No person may be issued a commercial driver's license
166 unless that person is domiciled in this state and has passed a
167 knowledge and skills test for driving a commercial motor vehicle
168 which complies with minimum federal standards established by
169 federal regulation enumerated in 49 CFR, Part 383, subparts F, G
170 and H and has satisfied all other requirements of Title XII of



171 Public Law 99-570 in addition to other requirements imposed by
172 state law or federal regulation. The tests shall be prescribed
173 and conducted by the commissioner. If the applicant wishes to
174 have a hazardous materials endorsement, the written test for a
175 hazardous materials endorsement must be taken and passed. In
176 addition, the applicant must successfully complete the security
177 threat assessment required by 49 CFR, Part 1572.

178 (3) (a) Any person who has been certified to provide
179 commercial driver's license testing by the International Driver
180 Examiner Certification (IDEC) program administered by the American
181 Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) shall, for
182 purposes of this section, be defined as a certified third party
183 examiner (CTPE). In addition, the commissioner shall authorize
184 any person, including an agency of this or another state, an
185 employer, a private driver training facility, or other private
186 institution, or a department, agency or instrumentality of local
187 government, to administer the knowledge and skills test specified
188 by this section, provided:

189 (i) The test is the same as would otherwise be
190 administered by the state; and

191 (ii) Either: 1. The third party has entered into
192 an agreement with this state which complies with requirements of
193 49 CFR, Part 383.75; or



194 2. The third party is a CTPE as defined in
195 this subsection. The CTPE shall not be a direct employee of a
196 trucking company.

197 (b) A CTPE performing testing under this section shall
198 not be liable for any claim sounding in tort arising out of such
199 testing.

200 (4) (a) The following tests may be waived as provided in
201 this subsection (4):

- 202 (i) Knowledge test;
- 203 (ii) Driving skills test;
- 204 (iii) Passenger endorsement test;
- 205 (iv) Tank vehicle endorsement test; and
- 206 (v) Hazardous materials test.

207 (b) The commissioner, by rules adopted pursuant to the
208 Mississippi Administrative Procedures Law, shall provide for a
209 waiver of the tests specified in this section and entry level
210 driver training for a commercial driver's license applicant who
211 meets the requirements of 49 CFR, Part 383.77;

212 (c) The rules may establish deadlines by which
213 applicants must claim entitlement and qualification to test
214 waivers and may provide for the scheduling of group knowledge
215 testing;

216 (d) The commissioner shall adopt rules and regulations
217 to carry out the provisions of this subsection (4) as soon as



218 practicable after July 1, 2022, but in any case no later than July
219 1, 2023.

220 (5) A commercial learner's permit shall be issued as
221 follows:

222 (a) A commercial learner's permit may be issued to an
223 individual who holds a valid Mississippi driver's license or who
224 holds United States military driving credentials that satisfy the
225 requirements of 49 CFR, Part 383, if the person has passed the
226 vision and written tests required for the class of license
227 authorizing the operation of the type of vehicle for which the
228 permit application is being made;

229 (b) The commercial learner's permit shall be issued for
230 a period of one (1) year for the fee prescribed in Section
231 63-1-43. Only one (1) renewal or reissuance may be granted within
232 a two-year period. The holder of a commercial learner's permit
233 may, unless otherwise disqualified, drive a commercial motor
234 vehicle on a highway only when accompanied by the holder of a
235 commercial driver's license valid for the type of vehicle driven
236 who occupies a seat beside the individual for the purpose of
237 giving instruction in driving the commercial motor vehicle.

238 (6) A commercial driver's license or commercial learner's
239 permit may not be issued to a person while the person is subject
240 to a disqualification from driving a commercial motor vehicle, or
241 while the person's driver's license is suspended, revoked or
242 cancelled in any state. A driver's license may not be issued to a



243 person who has a commercial driver's license issued by any state
244 unless the person first surrenders all driver's licenses issued by
245 any state, which licenses shall be returned to the issuing states
246 for cancellation.

247 (7) A person shall be entitled to take the test for a
248 commercial driver's license unless the person's driver's license
249 is, at the time of the requested test, suspended, revoked,
250 cancelled or disqualified in any other state.

251 (8) Notwithstanding any requirement imposed by state law or
252 state or federal regulations restricting the issuance of a
253 commercial driver's license to a person suffering from diabetes, a
254 person suffering from diabetes may be issued a commercial driver's
255 license if the person otherwise meets all qualifications for
256 issuance provided:

257 (a) The driver is physically examined every year,
258 including an examination by a treating clinician attesting to the
259 fact that the driver is:

260 (i) Free of insulin reactions (an individual is
261 free of insulin reactions if that individual does not have severe
262 hypoglycemia or hypoglycemia unawareness, and has less than one
263 (1) documented, symptomatic hypoglycemic reaction per month);

264 (ii) Able to and has demonstrated willingness to
265 properly monitor and manage the person's diabetes; and

266 (iii) Not likely to suffer any diminution in
267 driving ability due to the person's diabetic condition.



268 (b) The driver agrees to and complies with the
269 following conditions:

270 (i) A source of rapidly absorbable glucose shall
271 be carried at all times while driving;

272 (ii) Blood glucose levels shall be self-monitored
273 one (1) hour prior to driving and at least once every four (4)
274 hours while driving or on duty prior to driving using a portable
275 glucose monitoring device equipped with a computerized memory;

276 (iii) Submit blood glucose logs to the
277 endocrinologist or medical examiner at the annual examination or
278 when otherwise directed by the Department of Public Safety;

279 (iv) Provide a copy of the endocrinologist's
280 report to the medical examiner at the time of the annual medical
281 examination; and

282 (v) Provide a copy of the annual medical
283 certification to the person's employer for retention in the
284 driver's qualification file and retain a copy of the certification
285 on his person while driving for presentation to a duly authorized
286 federal, state or local enforcement official.

287 (c) The commercial license issued under this subsection
288 (8) will bear an endorsement restricting commercial driving on the
289 license to driving only within the boundaries of Mississippi.

290 (d) For purposes of this section, "treating clinician"
291 means a healthcare professional who manages and prescribes insulin
292 for the treatment of the individual's diabetes mellitus.



293 (9) The fees for all licenses, permits, renewals and
294 endorsements shall be as prescribed in Section 63-1-43.

295 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
296 and after July 1, 2023.

