

ASSEMBLY, No. 5054

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 12, 2023

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman MICHAEL TORRISSI, JR.

District 8 (Atlantic, Burlington and Camden)

SYNOPSIS

Directs DOLWD to establish “Entry-Level Driver Training Grant Program.”

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



A5054 TORRISSI

2

1 AN ACT establishing an “Entry-Level Driver Training Grant
2 Program” and supplementing P.L.1990, c.103 (C.39:3-10.9 et
3 seq.).

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. The Department of Labor and Workforce Development
9 shall establish an “Entry-Level Driver Training Grant Program”
10 which shall be operated by the department in conjunction with the
11 Motor Vehicle Commission and shall provide reimbursements to
12 State-based employers, employer consortiums, and non-profits that
13 provide entry-level, commercial driver training or that provide
14 entry-level, commercial driver license training in partnership with a
15 certified, third-party training provider located within the State.

16 b. The department, in conjunction with the Motor Vehicle
17 Commission, shall develop requirements under the program for
18 applicants to meet in order to receive reimbursement, which shall
19 include, but not be limited to:

20 (1) being certified with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
21 Administration’s Training Provider Registry prior to
22 reimbursement;

23 (2) providing training that meets the minimum federal standards
24 that entry-level drivers are required to complete before being
25 permitted to take certain commercial driver license skills or
26 knowledge tests;

27 (3) providing documentation that each driver has that driver’s
28 training certification uploaded to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
29 Administration’s Training Provider Registry and has passed the
30 commercial driver license exam within 30 days of the last day of
31 training or, if the driver fails the first exam attempt, the applicant
32 shall show that the driver has taken and passed the exam within 14
33 days of a first failed attempt; and

34 (4) submitting an itemized budget describing expenses incurred
35 completing entry-level driver training.

36
37 2. To effectuate the provisions of this act, all necessary funding
38 for the “Entry-Level Driver Training Grant Program” shall be
39 allocated to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development
40 out of the amounts of federal government assistance provided to
41 this State which may be available for purposes of workforce
42 development under the federal “American Rescue Plan Act of
43 2021,” Pub.L.117-2, “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act,”
44 Pub.L.113-128, or any other applicable federal program.

45
46 3. This act shall take effect 90 days next following the date of
47 enactment.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22

STATEMENT

This bill directs the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to establish an “Entry-Level Driver Training Grant Program.” Commercial motor vehicle drivers are a vital and growing part of New Jersey’s economy, with an estimated 44,800 heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers in the State as of May 2021. The costs associated with meeting federal and state requirements remain a barrier to entry for many who wish to obtain a commercial driver license, or CDL. On February 7, 2022, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration began implementing new Entry-Level Driver Training regulations that entry-level drivers must complete before being permitted to take certain CDL skills or knowledge tests. These additional requirements place further burdens on new commercial motor vehicle drivers.

By implementing a reimbursement program, the State will encourage employers to pay for their employees’ Entry-Level Driver Training and remove the burden from the drivers. This bill also allocates sufficient monies received by the State under the federal “American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021,” Pub.L.117-2, and “Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA),” Pub.L.113-128, to fund this program.