

ASSEMBLY, No. 728

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 221st LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman MICHAEL TORRISSI, JR.

District 8 (Atlantic and Burlington)

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



A728 TORRISSI

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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 STATEMENT

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

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