

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 258 Session of 2024

INTRODUCED BY ROTHMAN, J. WARD AND MARTIN, APRIL 5, 2024

REFERRED TO TRANSPORTATION, APRIL 5, 2024

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Congress of the United States to pursue legislative  
2 remedies to allow individuals 18, 19 and 20 years of age with  
3 a Commercial Driver's License to participate in interstate  
4 commerce activities.

5 WHEREAS, In 2023, the American Trucking Associations  
6 estimated that the trucking industry will be facing a shortage  
7 of more than 78,000 qualified drivers, with an anticipated need  
8 to hire 1.2 million new drivers over the next decade to meet  
9 increasing freight demands; and

10 WHEREAS, The trucking industry employs about 340,000  
11 Pennsylvanians, accounting for 1 in every 15 jobs in  
12 Pennsylvania, with more than 87,000 of these jobs being heavy  
13 and tractor-trailer truck drivers; and

14 WHEREAS, From 2018 through 2045, the United States Department  
15 of Transportation estimates long-term growth in truck freight  
16 activity in Pennsylvania of 51% in tonnage, 58% in ton-miles and  
17 80% in value; and

18 WHEREAS, 49 CFR 391.11 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
19 Regulations requires drivers to be at least 21 years of age to

1 operate in interstate commerce; however, 49 CFR 383.71 allows  
2 drivers to obtain a commercial learner's permit at 18 years of  
3 age and operate in intrastate commerce; and

4 WHEREAS, Forty-nine states, including Pennsylvania and  
5 Washington, DC, allow under-21 Commercial Driver's License (CDL)  
6 holders to operate Commercial Motor Vehicles (CMVs), as defined  
7 under 75 Pa.C.S. § 1603, in intrastate commerce; and

8 WHEREAS, The median age of an over-the-road truck driver is  
9 46, which is four years older than the average United States  
10 worker; and

11 WHEREAS, To preserve Pennsylvania's economic security and  
12 supply-chain efficiency, the pool of qualified drivers must be  
13 expanded while promoting appropriate safety standards and  
14 performance criteria; and

15 WHEREAS, The trucking industry offers fulfilling careers with  
16 family-sustaining salaries without the debt that often  
17 accompanies a four-year college degree; and

18 WHEREAS, Career and technical education centers and at least  
19 one high school in Pennsylvania offer CDL training to students  
20 under 21 years of age, and other secondary education  
21 institutions are considering it; and

22 WHEREAS, The Federal prohibition on CDL drivers under 21  
23 years of age operating in interstate commerce limits the number  
24 of jobs that are available to young drivers to grow their skills  
25 in the trucking industry, and this limitation often forces them  
26 to follow other career paths at a time when they are making  
27 critical decisions about their future; and

28 WHEREAS, The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST)  
29 Act required an under-21 military CDL pilot program, which was  
30 limited to individuals who were members of the armed forces to

1 operate a CMV in interstate commerce; and

2 WHEREAS, The FAST Act was reauthorized by the Infrastructure  
3 Investment and Jobs Act, which established a new Safe Driver  
4 Apprenticeship pilot program to permit individuals 18, 19 and 20  
5 years of age to operate a CMV in interstate commerce under  
6 specific conditions; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 urge the Congress of the United States to pursue legislative  
9 remedies that would allow individuals 18, 19 and 20 years of age  
10 with a Commercial Driver's License to participate in interstate  
11 commerce activities; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Senate of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
13 promote appropriate safety standards and performance criteria  
14 for the operation of CMVs by individuals 18, 19 and 20 years of  
15 age for truck freight purposes in interstate commerce; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to  
18 the United States Secretary of Transportation, the Administrator  
19 of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, the chair  
20 and ranking member of the United States Senate Committee on  
21 Commerce, Science and Transportation, the chair and ranking  
22 member of the United States House Committee on Transportation  
23 and Infrastructure, each member of Congress from Pennsylvania,  
24 the Governor of Pennsylvania and the Secretary of Transportation  
25 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.