

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1569

5 By: Representatives Long, Eubanks
6 By: Senator J. Payton
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

8
9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SECURE ROADS AND SAFE TRUCKING
10 ACT OF 2025; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING A COMMERCIAL
11 DRIVER LICENSE AND THE OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR
12 VEHICLES; TO REQUIRE THAT OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL
13 MOTOR VEHICLES HAVE PROFICIENCY IN THE ENGLISH
14 LANGUAGE; TO REQUIRE THAT OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL
15 MOTOR VEHICLES HAVE A VALID COMMERCIAL DRIVER
16 LICENSE; TO CREATE ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR
17 OFFENSES COMMITTED WHILE OPERATING A COMMERCIAL MOTOR
18 VEHICLE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER
19 PURPOSES.
20
21

Subtitle

22
23 TO CREATE THE SECURE ROADS AND SAFE
24 TRUCKING ACT OF 2025; TO AMEND THE LAW
25 CONCERNING COMMERCIAL DRIVERS; TO CREATE
26 PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED WHILE
27 OPERATING A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE;
28 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
29

30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

31
32 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

33 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Secure Roads and Safe
34 Trucking Act of 2025".
35

36 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-23-123 is amended to read as follows:



1 27-23-123. Reciprocity.

2 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a person may drive a
3 commercial motor vehicle if the person has a commercial driver license issued
4 by any state ~~or province or territory of Canada~~, in accordance with the
5 minimum federal standards for the issuance of commercial motor vehicle driver
6 licenses, if the person is not suspended, revoked, cancelled, or disqualified
7 from driving a commercial motor vehicle, or subject to an out-of-service
8 order.

9
10 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 23, Subchapter 1, is
11 amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

12 27-23-132. Requirement to possess domestic commercial driver license.

13 An individual operating a commercial motor vehicle within this state
14 shall possess a valid commercial driver license issued by a state, territory,
15 or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or the
16 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

17
18 27-23-133. Operation of commercial motor vehicle by certain visa
19 holders.

20 (a)(1) A holder of a B-1, B-2, or B-1/B-2 combination visa under 22
21 C.F.R. §§ 41.31 - 41.33, as it existed on January 1, 2025, shall not perform
22 labor or services operating a commercial motor vehicle within this state.

23 (2) The act of operating a commercial motor vehicle is
24 considered labor.

25 (b) Upon a finding that the holder of a B-1, B-2, or B-1/B-2
26 combination visa under 22 C.F.R. §§ 41.31-41.3, as it existed on January 1,
27 2025, operated a commercial motor vehicle:

28 (1) The commercial motor vehicle shall be impounded, subject to
29 the process for the impoundment of a motor vehicle as set forth under § 27-
30 22-109(b) and (c);

31 (2) The operator of the commercial motor vehicle who violates
32 this section shall be subject to a fine of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars.

33
34 27-23-134. Exclusion of reciprocity.

35 A nondomiciled commercial driver license or nondomiciled commercial
36 learner's permit issued by a state other than Arkansas under 49 C.F.R. §

1 383.71, as it existed on January 1, 2025, or a commercial driver license or
2 commercial learner's permit issued by a foreign country is not valid to
3 authorize the operation of a commercial motor vehicle within this state.

4
5 27-23-135. English proficiency.

6 An operator of a commercial motor vehicle shall demonstrate proficiency
7 in the English language sufficient to:

- 8 (1) Read road signs and warning signs;
9 (2) Understand traffic control devices; and
10 (3) Communicate effectively in an emergency with:
11 (A) Emergency services;
12 (B) Law enforcement; and
13 (C) Other drivers.

14
15 27-23-136. Noncitizen operating commercial motor vehicle without
16 domestic commercial driver license.

17 (a) A person commits the offense of operating a commercial motor
18 vehicle without a domestic commercial driver license if he or she:

- 19 (1) Is not a citizen of the United States;
20 (2) Operates a commercial motor vehicle; and
21 (3) Does not hold a valid commercial driver license issued by a
22 state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of
23 Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

24 (b)(1) The offense of operating a commercial motor vehicle without a
25 domestic commercial driver license is a violation and is subject to a fine of
26 five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

27 (2) Upon an arrest for a violation of this section, the
28 commercial motor vehicle that the person was operating shall be impounded,
29 subject to the process for the impoundment of a motor vehicle stated under §
30 27-22-109(b) and (c).

31 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

32
33 27-23-137. Criminal use of a commercial motor vehicle.

34 (a) A person commits the offense of criminal use of a commercial motor
35 vehicle if he or she:

- 36 (1) Is not a citizen of the United States;

1 (2) Does not possess a valid commercial driver license issued by
2 a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of
3 Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

4 (3) Causes the bodily harm of another person while operating a
5 commercial motor vehicle.

6 (b) The offense of criminal use of a commercial motor vehicle is a
7 Class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of six (6) months.

8 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

9
10 27-23-138. Vehicular homicide with a commercial motor vehicle.

11 (a) A person commits the offense of vehicular homicide with a
12 commercial motor vehicle if he or she:

13 (1) Is not a citizen of the United States;

14 (2) Does not possess a valid commercial driver license issued by
15 a state, territory, or possession of the United States, the District of
16 Columbia, or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

17 (3) Causes the death of another person while operating a
18 commercial motor vehicle.

19 (b) The offense of vehicular homicide with a commercial motor vehicle
20 is a Class B felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of ten (10) years.

21 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

22
23 27-23-139. Operating commercial motor vehicle without sufficient
24 English language proficiency.

25 (a) A person commits the offense of operating a commercial motor
26 vehicle without sufficient English language proficiency if he or she:

27 (1) Operates a commercial vehicle; and

28 (2) Fails to demonstrate proficiency in the English language as
29 required under § 27-23-135.

30 (b) The offense of operating a commercial motor vehicle without
31 sufficient English language proficiency is a violation and is subject to a
32 fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

33 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

34
35 27-23-140. Providing commercial motor vehicle to ineligible operator –
36 Penalties – Definition.

1 (a) A commercial motor carrier commits the offense of providing a
2 commercial motor vehicle to an ineligible operator if the commercial motor
3 carrier negligently provides a commercial vehicle to a person who:

4 (1) Operates the commercial motor vehicle; and

5 (2) Violates § 27-23-133, § 27-23-136, or § 27-23-139.

6 (b) The offense of providing a commercial motor vehicle to an
7 ineligible operator is a violation and is subject to a fine of ten thousand
8 dollars (\$10,000).

9 (c) As used in this section, "commercial motor carrier" means the same
10 as used in § 27-14-613.

11
12 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
13 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that that the implementation of
14 this act is essential to the safety of the citizens of the State of Arkansas;
15 and that this act is immediately necessary because a delay in implementing
16 this act could cause irreparable harm to public safety. Therefore, an
17 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
18 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
19 effective on:

20 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

21 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
22 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
23 bill; or

24 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
25 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.