

2026 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1050

BY REPRESENTATIVE SCHAMERHORN

MTR VEHICLE/DRIVER LIC: Modifies provisions relative to certain requirements for commercial driver's licenses

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:405.1 and 408(B)(2)(a)(ii) and (b) and to repeal R.S.
3 32:408(B)(7), relative to certain requirements for commercial driver's licenses; to
4 provide for clarification of age requirements for intrastate and interstate commercial
5 driver's licenses; to lessen the restrictions on certain commercial driver's licenses; to
6 remove the minimum vision requirements for intrastate driver waivers; and to
7 provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 32:405.1 and 408(B)(2)(a)(ii) and (b) are hereby amended and
10 reenacted to read as follows:

11 §405.1. Age requirements

12 Subject to R.S. 32:407, a Class "E" driver's license or a Class "D" chauffeur's
13 license shall be granted to a person seventeen years of age or ~~above~~ older. Class
14 "A", "B", or "C" licenses shall be granted only to persons eighteen years of age or
15 ~~above~~ older. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, a first time applicant for
16 a Class "E" license who is an eighteen year-old years of age or older or the parent or
17 guardian of a first time applicant who is seventeen year-old ~~first time applicant for~~
18 ~~a Class "E" license~~ years of age shall provide a signed statement to the department
19 attesting that the applicant has completed a minimum of fifty hours of supervised
20 driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least ~~age~~ twenty-one

1 years of age or older. However, if the first time applicant for a Class "E" license is
 2 seventeen years of age and emancipated, the applicant shall provide the attestation
 3 for himself, provided that the applicant has the necessary identifying information and
 4 documents. At least fifteen of these hours must be nighttime driving. ~~However,~~
 5 ~~hazardous materials endorsements shall be issued only to persons twenty-one years~~
 6 ~~of age or above.~~ A commercial driver's license authorizing the operation of a
 7 commercial motor vehicle in intrastate commerce may be issued to a person eighteen
 8 years of age or older. A commercial driver's license authorizing the operation of
 9 commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce, or a commercial driver's license
 10 with a hazardous materials endorsement, shall be issued only to a person twenty-one
 11 years of age or older. The age limitations are subject to the minimum age
 12 requirements set forth in the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 and the
 13 regulations promulgated thereunder relative to licensing of carriers in interstate
 14 commerce.

* * *

16 §408. Examination of applicants required; classes of licenses

* * *

18 B.

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20 (2) A commercial driver's license shall be required when a vehicle is used
 21 in commerce as defined in this Chapter, and is a commercial motor vehicle as
 22 defined in this Chapter. A farmer shall not need a commercial driver's license when
 23 operating a motor vehicle as provided for in Subparagraph (e) of this Paragraph. The
 24 department may elect to or, if required by the Federal Highway Administration, shall
 25 change the weight and passenger limits expressed herein to conform to regulations
 26 by the Federal Highway Administration. The department shall do so by regulations
 27 promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act subject to
 28 oversight by the Joint Legislative Committee on Transportation, Highways and
 29 Public Works. A commercial learner's permit issued to an individual of this state or

1 another jurisdiction, in accordance with rules and regulations of the Federal Motor
2 Carrier Safety Administration, when carried with a valid driver's license issued by
3 the same state or jurisdiction, authorizes the permittee to operate a class of
4 commercial motor vehicle when accompanied by a holder of a valid commercial
5 driver's license for purposes of behind-the-wheel training. When issued to the holder
6 of a commercial driver's license, a commercial learner's permit serves as
7 authorization to take part in behind-the-wheel training in a commercial motor vehicle
8 for which the driver is not licensed to drive. The different classes of drivers' licenses
9 to be issued shall be as follows:

10 (a)

11 * * *

12 (ii) Restriction. ~~An individual who takes a skills test for a Class "A"~~
13 ~~Commercial Driver's License in a motor vehicle other than a tractor-trailer~~
14 ~~combination, sometimes referred to as an "eighteen wheeler", shall be issued a~~
15 ~~license with a restriction prohibiting the operation of a tractor-trailer combination.~~
16 ~~This restriction shall be lifted only if the individual successfully completes a skills~~
17 ~~test in a tractor-trailer combination. For purposes of this Item, a power unit with a~~
18 ~~gross vehicle weight rating of less than twenty-six thousand one pounds shall not~~
19 ~~qualify as the tractor portion of a tractor-trailer combination. An individual who~~
20 ~~takes a skills test for a Class "A" commercial driver's license in a motor vehicle with~~
21 ~~the power unit and towed unit connected with a pintel hook or other non-fifth wheel~~
22 ~~connection, shall be issued a license with a restriction prohibiting the operation of~~
23 ~~a tractor-trailer combination connected by a fifth wheel that requires a Class "A"~~
24 ~~commercial driver's license. This restriction shall be lifted only if the individual~~
25 ~~successfully completes a skills test in a Class "A" vehicle connected with a fifth~~
26 ~~wheel.~~

27 (b) Class "B" Commercial Driver's License - "Heavy Straight Vehicle".

28 Permits the operation of any vehicle within Classes "C", "D", and "E", with
29 any appropriate endorsements, plus any single vehicle with which has a gross vehicle

1 weight rating or gross vehicle weight of twenty-six thousand ~~and~~ one or more
 2 pounds, or any such vehicle towing a vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating or
 3 gross vehicle weight that does not exceed ten thousand pounds. ~~not in excess of ten~~
 4 ~~thousand pounds gross vehicle weight. A "straight vehicle" is defined for the~~
 5 ~~purpose of this class as being one that does not bend or have any moveable joint in~~
 6 ~~its frame between the driver's seat and the cargo or passenger compartment. This~~
 7 class does not include the operation of motorcycles and motor scooters except as an
 8 endorsement to the basic license.

9 * * *

10 Section 2. R.S. 32:408(B)(7) is hereby repealed in its entirety.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 1050 Engrossed

2026 Regular Session

Schamerhorn

Abstract: Modifies certain requirements for commercial driver's licenses within the state of Louisiana.

Present law (R.S. 32:405.1) requires a person be 17 years of age or above to obtain a Class "E" driver's license or Class "D" chauffeur's license. Further requires a person be 18 years of age or above to obtain Class "A", "B", or "C" licenses. Additionally requires an 18 year old or older or parent or guardian of a 17 year old first time applicant for a Class "E" license provide a signed statement to the dept. attesting that the applicant has completed a minimum of 50 hrs. of supervised driving practice with a licensed parent, guardian, or adult at least age 21 or older. Further specifies that if the first time applicant for a Class "E" license is 17 years of age and emancipated, the applicant must provide the attestation, if the applicant has the necessary identifying information and documents. Additionally requires at least 15 of these hours must be nighttime driving. Further requires hazardous materials endorsements shall be issued only those 21 years of age or above.

Proposed law modifies present law by changing the reference to ages from above to older for the classes of driver's licenses. Further requires commercial driver's licenses in intrastate commerce be issued to a person 18 years of age or older. Additionally requires commercial driver's licenses for operation of a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce, or a commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement, be issued only to a person 21 years of age or older.

Present law (R.S. 32:408(B)(2)(a)(ii)) provides for commercial driver's licenses used in commerce defined in present law. Further specifies the restriction that an individual who takes a skills test for a Class "A" Commercial Driver's License in a motor vehicle other than a tractor-trailer combination, or "eighteen wheeler", be issued a license with a restriction prohibiting the operation of a tractor-trailer combination. Further requires this restriction be lifted only if the individual successfully completes a skills test in a tractor-trailer combination. Further specifies a power unit has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than

26,001 lbs. cannot qualify as the tractor portion of a tractor-trailer combination. Additionally requires that an individual who takes a skills test for a Class "A" commercial driver's license in a motor vehicle with the power unit and towed unit connected with a pintel hook or other non-fifth wheel connection, be issued a license with a restriction prohibiting the operation of a tractor-trailer combination connected by a fifth wheel that requires a Class "A" commercial driver's license.

Proposed law removes the restriction prohibiting the operation of a tractor trailer combination for individuals who take a Class "A" skills test, for motor vehicles other than tractor trailer combinations, unless the individual takes a tractor trailer combination skills test. Further removes the specification that a power unit with a weight rating of less than 26,001 lbs. does not qualify as the tractor portion of a tractor trailer combination. Further retains present law regarding pintel hook or other non-fifth wheel connection restrictions, but adds that this restriction be lift only if the individual successfully completes a fifth wheel, Class "A" skills test.

Present law (R.S. 408(B)(2)(b)) specifies that Classes "C", "D", and "E" are permitted, with any appropriate endorsements, plus any single vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 or more lbs., or any vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight rating. Further defines a "straight vehicle" as being one that does not bend or have any moveable joint in its frame between the driver's seat and the cargo or passenger compartment, which does not include the operation of motorcycles and motor scooters except as an endorsement to the basic license.

Proposed law modifies present law by adding gross vehicle weight. Further removes the "straight vehicle" definition.

Present law (R.S. 32:408(B)(7)) specifies the minimum vision requirements for intrastate driver waivers.

Proposed law removes present law.

(Amends R.S. 32:405.1 and 408(B)(2)(a)(ii) and (b); Repeals R.S. 32:408(B)(7))