

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 868 (HB 1050)

2026 Regular Session

Schamerhorn

Prior law (R.S. 32:405.1) required a person be 17 years of age or above to obtain a Class "E" driver's license or Class "D" chauffeur's license. Required a person be 18 years of age or above to obtain Class "A", "B", or "C" licenses. Additionally required 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 specified 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 required at least 15 of these hours must be nighttime driving. Further required hazardous materials endorsements shall be issued only those 21 years of age or above.

New law modifies prior 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.

Existing law (R.S. 32:408(B)(2)) provides for commercial driver's licenses used in commerce defined in existing law.

Prior law (R.S. 32:408(B)(2)(a)(ii)) specified 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 that prohibited the operation of a tractor-trailer combination. Required this restriction be lifted only if the individual successfully completed a skills test in a tractor-trailer combination. Further specified a power unit that has a gross vehicle weight rating of less than 26,001 lbs. did not qualify as the tractor portion of a tractor-trailer combination.

Existing law 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 pintle 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.

New 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 existing law regarding pintle 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.

Existing law (R.S. 32:408(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.

New law modifies existing law by adding gross vehicle weight.

Prior law defined 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 did not include the operation of motorcycles and motor scooters except as an endorsement to the basic license.

New law removes the "straight vehicle" definition.

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

New law removes prior law in its entirety.

Effective August 1, 2026.

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