

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY SENATOR FESI

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, in coordination with the Department of Transportation and Development and other relevant agencies, to study the differences between Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi laws and regulations governing commercial driver's licenses and commercial freight hauling operations and to report findings and recommendations to the legislature regarding improving regulatory alignment and cohesiveness amongst the states.

WHEREAS, Louisiana serves as a major transportation corridor for interstate commerce and freight movement throughout the Gulf Coast region; and

WHEREAS, commercial motor vehicle drivers and freight carriers operating within Louisiana frequently conduct operations across state lines into neighboring states including Texas and Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, though federal law establishes minimum standards for commercial driver's licenses and commercial motor vehicle safety, states retain authority to regulate certain aspects of commercial motor vehicle operations including oversize and overweight load permitting, intrastate licensing administration, commodity-specific transport rules, and enforcement practices; and

WHEREAS, Texas and Mississippi drivers may operate vehicles with up to twenty-six thousand pounds with a standard driver's license, yet Louisiana's standard license does not cover the same vehicle weight class; and

WHEREAS, differences between state regulatory systems create operational challenges, administrative burdens, and economic disadvantages for Louisiana drivers compared to carriers operating in multiple jurisdictions with more advantageous state regulations; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana businesses, ports, distribution centers, and energy infrastructure depend heavily on efficient freight movement and competitive transportation policies; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive review of Louisiana's commercial motor vehicle regulatory framework compared to neighboring states may identify opportunities to improve efficiency, promote safety, and strengthen Louisiana's competitiveness as a regional transportation hub.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby request the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, in coordination with the Department of Transportation and Development and other appropriate state agencies, to conduct a study of the differences between Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi laws and regulations including but not limited to:

- (1) Commercial driver's license classifications and endorsement requirements, including hazardous materials endorsements.
- (2) CDL issuance, renewal, and administrative procedures.
- (3) Commercial motor vehicle size and weight limitations.
- (4) Oversize and overweight load permitting policies.
- (5) Commodity-specific transport regulations and exemptions.
- (6) Other commercial motor vehicle operational requirements affecting interstate freight movement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study shall identify regulatory differences that may affect interstate commercial drivers or Louisiana-based motor carriers operating in multiple states and shall evaluate whether greater regulatory consistency with neighboring states could improve transportation efficiency and economic competitiveness while maintaining roadway safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, shall submit a written report of its findings and any recommendations for legislative or administrative action to the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works no later than February 1, 2027.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, the commissioner of the office of motor vehicles, the secretary of the Department of Transportation and Development, and the executive director of the Louisiana Motor Transport Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES