
THIRD READING

Bill No: SJR 16
Author: Caballero (D), et al.
Introduced: 5/7/26
Vote: 21

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: 9-3, 6/9/26
AYES: Cortese, Archuleta, Arreguín, Blakespear, Gonzalez, Grayson, Menjivar,
Richardson, Wiener
NOES: Strickland, Dahle, Seyarto
NO VOTE RECORDED: Valladares

SUBJECT: Vehicles: commercial driver's license revocation

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution urges the United States Congress and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to reevaluate certain regulations pertaining to commercial driver's licenses (CDL), as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Develops and administers via FMCSA at the federal level, CDL regulations that set nationwide standards relating to testing and licensing requirements, vehicle endorsements, and safety standards, as provided.
- 2) Declares, at the state level, that the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is responsible for issuing, renewing, and enforcing compliance with CDL requirements, as specified.

This resolution urges the United States Congress and FMCSA to review federal CDL disqualification policies and consider reforms that allow states greater flexibility related to the enforcement of federal disqualification policies, as specified.

Comments

Purpose of the resolution. According to the author, "California's commercial truck drivers are the backbone of our supply chain and a critical workforce that keeps our state and our nation moving. In March of this year, a federal rulemaking targeting immigrant drivers disenfranchised 13,000 commercial drivers in California, stripping them of their ability to earn a living, provide for their families, and contribute the essential logistical services our economy depends on. This action threatens California's working families. Commercial truck drivers cross the country for weeks at a time, often working under dangerous weather conditions, away from their loved ones, to deliver the goods that sustain our communities. SJR 16 calls on Congress to take action to reinstate the displaced drivers who lost their ability to operate commercial vehicles following this federal rulemaking, and to recognize the substantial economic contributions these workers make to California and to the nation. This resolution is an important step to stabilize our supply chain, protect working families, and ensure that the drivers who keep our economy moving are valued and supported."

FMCSA's Interim Final Rule. On September 29, 2025, FMCSA issued an Interim Final Rule to limit state's ability to issue and renew non-domiciled CDLs to certain individuals domiciled in foreign jurisdictions. Specifically, the Rule amends Title 49 within the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 383 and 384, narrowing individuals eligible for non-domiciled CDLs by imposing stricter eligibility limits, changing documentation requirements, and requiring states to verify immigration status via the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) database. The Interim Final Rule went into immediate effect, in turn, requiring DMV to notify certain CDL holders that their license would be revoked per new federal regulations. Currently, a stay has been issued by the United States Court of Appeals (D.C. Circuit) due to a number of lawsuits pending in regard to the Interim Final Rule leaving both the Rule and implementation of the Rule on pending.

This resolution urges the United States Congress and FMCSA to review the Interim Final Rule's CDL disqualification policies and further consider reforms that provide greater flexibility for states to ensure the jobs and economic well-being of thousands of commercial drivers in California and throughout the country are preserved.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: No Local: No

SUPPORT: (Verified 6/10/26)

California Federation of Labor Unions, Afl-cio
Teamsters California

OPPOSITION: (Verified 6/10/26)

None received

Prepared by: Manny Leon / TRANS. / (916) 651-4121
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