

2022 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY REPRESENTATIVES BRASS, CORMIER, EDMONSTON, FIRMENT, FREIBERG,
GADBERRY, GAROFALO, HORTON, LARVADAIN, MARINO, PIERRE,
SCHAMERHORN, AND SELDERS

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to collaborate to establish an industry-based credential offered through dual enrollment for the classroom instruction portion of commercial driver's license training.

WHEREAS, as drivers age out of the workforce, driving schools close, and young people pursue other opportunities, the American Trucking Association estimates a shortage of 160,000 drivers by 2028; and

WHEREAS, according to the association, trucks move roughly 72.5% of the nation's freight by weight; with a lack of drivers, delivering that freight will be a monumental task; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports about 28,100 openings for diesel service technicians and mechanics are projected each year, on average, over the next decade; many of those openings are expected to result from the need to replace workers who transfer to different occupations or retire; and

WHEREAS, the Safe Driver Apprenticeship Pilot Program, proposed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), will soon become operational; the program will allow people as young as eighteen to drive interstate semi trucks; and

WHEREAS, providing the classroom instruction portion of commercial driver's license (CDL) certification to high school students through dual enrollment and subsequently providing driving instruction after they have reached the age of eighteen will both shorten the time between high school graduation and employment and reduce the cost to the students pursuing CDLs or a transportation-related program; and

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) is a member of the Next Generation in Trucking Association, a nonprofit organization creating and promoting CDL driver and diesel technical training programs for the next generation; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education have demonstrated success through the Fast Forward Program, a program aimed at achieving the goal that, beginning with the freshman class of 2025, all public high school graduates in Louisiana will complete high school with academic or career-technical college credit, a postsecondary credential of value, or both; and

WHEREAS, in the report submitted to the legislative transportation committees in response to House Concurrent Resolution No. 62 of the 2021 Regular Session of the Legislature, LCTCS proposed a framework offering both a logistics credential and a postsecondary education credential of value covering the theory portion of the entry level driving program, which is a requirement prior to entering the behind-the-wheel instruction; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of dual enrollment and the Fast Forward Program to deliver the classroom instruction necessary for the CDL will help meet the demand for drivers with CDLs in Louisiana and help provide additional high-wage and high-demand employment opportunities to the young citizens of our state.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission to collaborate to establish an industry-based credential, offered through dual enrollment, for the classroom instruction portion of CDL training.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the instruction shall cover the FMCSA's required theory portion of the entry-level driver training program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state Department of Education, the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the Louisiana Workforce Commission shall provide a written report to the House Committee on Education, Senate Committee on Education, House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works, and Senate Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works not later than September 1, 2022, relative to progress made, any impediments to implementation, and recommendations for any legislation necessary to implement the requests of this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, the state superintendent of education, the system president of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, and the secretary of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE