

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3448**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

PRESENTED BY:

*William M. Straus*

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act to promote commercial driver safety.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:	DATE ADDED:
<i>William M. Straus</i>	<i>10th Bristol</i>	<i>1/20/2023</i>

**HOUSE . . . . . No. 3448**

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By Representative Straus of Mattapoisett, a petition (accompanied by bill, House, No. 3448) of William M. Straus relative to promoting commercial driver safety. Transportation.

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[SIMILAR MATTER FILED IN PREVIOUS SESSION  
SEE HOUSE, NO. 3613 OF 2021-2022.]

**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Third General Court  
(2023-2024)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act to promote commercial driver safety.

*Whereas*, The deferred operation of this act would tend to defeat its purpose, which is to regulate the licensing of commercial drivers, therefore it is hereby declared to be an emergency law, necessary for the immediate preservation of the public safety.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 7D of said chapter 90, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
2 striking out, in line 2, the words “and (16)” and inserting thereof the words:- , (16) and (17).

3 SECTION 2. Section 1 of chapter 90F of the General Laws, as so appearing, is hereby  
4 amended by inserting after the definition of “Commerce”, the following definition:-

5 “Commercial Driver’s License” (CDL), a license issued in accordance with the standards  
6 contained in federal regulations at 49 C.F.R. Part 383 and in this chapter to an individual which  
7 authorizes the individual to operate a class of commercial motor vehicle.

8 SECTION 3. Said section 1 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
9 amended by striking out the definition of “Conviction” and inserting in place thereof the  
10 following definition:-

11 “Conviction”, an unvacated adjudication of guilt; a determination that a person has  
12 violated or failed to comply with the law in a court of original jurisdiction or by an  
13 administrative tribunal; an unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the  
14 person's appearance in court; a plea of guilty or nolo contendere accepted by the court; the  
15 payment of a fine or court cost; violation of a condition of release without bail, regardless of  
16 whether the penalty is rebated, suspended or probated; a disposition under sections 24D and 24E  
17 of chapter 90; an admission to sufficient facts; a continuance without a finding; a court-ordered  
18 assignment to an alcohol or controlled substance education, treatment or rehabilitation program;  
19 a refusal to submit to a chemical test or analysis of one’s breath or blood when requested by law  
20 enforcement in the enforcement of motor vehicle safety laws; a determination by chemical test or  
21 analysis that a person has had a percentage, by weight, of alcohol in their blood of 0.04 or more  
22 while operating a commercial motor vehicle or a concentration of 0.08 or more while operating  
23 any motor vehicle.

24 SECTION 4. Said section 1 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
25 amended by striking out the definition of “Serious traffic violation” and inserting in place thereof  
26 the following definition:-

27 “Serious traffic violation”, improper or erratic traffic lane changes; following the vehicle  
28 ahead too closely or excessive speeding, as those violations are defined by the United States  
29 Department of Transportation by regulation; any violation of a state or local law relating to

30 motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) that arises in connection with a fatal  
31 accident; driving recklessly, as defined by state or local law or regulation, including but not  
32 limited to, offenses of driving a motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of  
33 persons or property; driving a commercial motor vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver  
34 license or commercial vehicle learner's permit; driving a commercial motor vehicle without  
35 having a commercial driver license or commercial vehicle learner's permit in possession; driving  
36 a commercial motor vehicle without the proper class or endorsement; manually composing,  
37 sending or reading an electronic message while operating a commercial motor vehicle in  
38 violation of section 13D of chapter 90; using a mobile electronic device while operating a  
39 commercial motor vehicle in violation of said section 13D said chapter 90; and any other  
40 violations of state law relating to motor vehicle traffic control which the registry determines by  
41 regulation to be serious, as well as offenses listed in regulations which the registrar may  
42 promulgate to reflect the definition of a serious traffic violation contained in any applicable  
43 federal statute or regulation.

44 SECTION 5. Said section 3 of said chapter 90F is hereby further amended by striking  
45 out, in line 12, the words "thirty days of the date of conviction" and inserting in place thereof the  
46 following words:- one business day of receiving notice of such conviction.

47 SECTION 6. Said section 3 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
48 striking out paragraph (B) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

49 (B) Notification of suspensions, revocations and cancellations. Each driver whose driver  
50 license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled by any state, who loses the privilege to drive a  
51 commercial motor vehicle in any state for any period, or who is disqualified from driving a

52 commercial motor vehicle for any period, shall notify his employer and the registrar of motor  
53 vehicles of that fact before the end of the business day following the day the driver received  
54 notice of that fact. Any driver who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall be subject to a  
55 civil penalty of \$500 in addition to any other administrative action that the registrar of motor  
56 vehicles may impose as a consequence of the underlying suspension, revocation, or cancellation.

57 SECTION 7. Paragraph (C) of section 4 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby  
58 amended by striking out, in line 17, the words “\$2,750 to \$11,000” and inserting in place thereof  
59 the following words:- \$5,591 to \$30,956.

60 SECTION 8. Said section 4 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
61 adding the following paragraph:-

62 (E) Each employer shall participate in the Registrar’s Driver Verification System, which  
63 allows an employer to track the license status of employees who operate commercial motor  
64 vehicles and which notifies employers of any change in an employee’s commercial driver’s  
65 license status.

66 SECTION 9. Section 7 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
67 striking out, in line 7, the words “weight and eye and hair color,” and inserting in place thereof  
68 the following words:- eye color.

69 SECTION 10. Paragraph (A) of section 9 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby  
70 amended by striking out subparagraph (2) and inserting in place thereof the following  
71 subparagraph:-

72 (2) Operating a commercial motor vehicle while the person has a percentage, by weight,  
73 of alcohol in their blood of 0.04 or more;

74 SECTION 11. Said section 9 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby further  
75 amended by striking out paragraph (E) and inserting in place thereof the following paragraph:-

76 (E) Any person shall be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a  
77 period of not less than 120 days if convicted of 2 serious traffic violations, or 240 days if  
78 convicted of 3 serious traffic violations, committed in the operation of a commercial motor  
79 vehicle arising from separate incidents occurring within a 3-year period. The disqualification  
80 period under this paragraph shall be imposed in addition to any other previously imposed period  
81 of disqualification.

82 SECTION 12. Clause (i) of subparagraph (1) of paragraph (E 1/2) of said section 9 of  
83 said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the words “ninety days” and  
84 inserting in place thereof the following words:- one hundred and eighty days or more than one  
85 year.

86 SECTION 13. Clause (ii) of said subparagraph (1) of said paragraph (E1/2) of said  
87 section 9 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out the words “one  
88 year” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- two years or more than five years.

89 SECTION 14. Subparagraph (3) of said paragraph (E1/2) of said section 9 of said chapter  
90 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 67, the words “\$1,100 and not  
91 more than \$2,750” and inserting in place thereof the following words:- \$3,096 for a first  
92 violation and not less than \$6,192 for a second or subsequent violation.

93 SECTION 15. Said section 9 of said chapter 90F, as so appearing, is hereby amended by  
94 adding the following paragraph:-

95 (I) The registrar may suspend or revoke without a hearing any commercial driver's  
96 license issued under this chapter whenever the holder thereof (i) has committed a violation of the  
97 motor vehicle laws of a nature which would give the registrar reason to believe that continuing  
98 operation by such holder is and will be so seriously improper as to constitute an immediate threat  
99 to the public safety; or (ii) has committed two or more serious traffic violations within the prior  
100 twelve month period. Upon such suspension or revocation, the registrar shall forthwith send  
101 written notice thereof to the licensee. Such notice shall specify the time and place of the violation  
102 or violations. The registrar may order the license of such operator to be delivered to him; and the  
103 license shall not be reissued unless, upon examination or investigation, or after a hearing, the  
104 registrar determines that the operator shall again be permitted to operate. Said operator shall be  
105 entitled to a hearing within thirty days of the suspension or revocation, and the registrar shall so  
106 advise him in the notice of suspension or revocation.