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January 25, 2012

Administrator Anne Ferro
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Suite W60-300,
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Ferro:

I am writing today to urge you to take all appropriate action to help veterans obtain commercial driver licenses (CDL). Currently, veterans who have military driving experience and/or military CDLs must go through the training and testing that those without experience go through to obtain a Class A CDL. This represents a significant burden for veterans seeking employment.

I believe that helping veterans gain employment is a top priority. I was a lead cosponsor of the Veteran Employment Assistance Act of 2010, which included language that would have allowed veterans to use credentials gained in the military for civilian employment. While that bill was not enacted, in the last Congress I was also a cosponsor of the Veterans Opportunity to Work to Hire Heroes Act of 2011, which required a study to find ways in which the Department of Defense (DoD) can provide, within military training, licensing and credentialing accepted for civilian employment.

Under MAP – 21, FMCSA is required to undertake a study on making the transition to easier licensing and assess ways to relieve the burden of CDL licensing on veterans. I encourage your administration to work to promptly implement the compulsory sections and complete the required survey without delay. I am pleased to see actions taken by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration thus far to ease burdens on veterans and understand that making the transition from military CDLs to Class A CDLs is a priority for you. Please let me know if additional Congressional action would assist your efforts.

I also encourage FMCSA to work with DoD to help ease the transition for veterans between military licenses and civilian CDL licenses. Should you have any questions, please have your staff contact Jeremy Price (202-224-9306) of my staff.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

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Air Force News Service (Washington, DC); Tuesday, January 15, 2013

HEADLINE: DOD official lauds veterans commercial license effort

Byline: Cheryl Pellerin

WASHINGTON (AFNS) -- Maryland has joined 33 other states in agreeing to waive the skills test for veterans and service members who have military training that would entitle them to a commercial driver's license, a senior Defense Department official said today.

Frank C. DiGiovanni, director of training, readiness and strategy in the office of the deputy assistant secretary of defense for readiness, joined Maryland Lt. Gov. Anthony Brown and officials from the Maryland Department of Transportation, veterans' organizations, and federal, state and local offices to announce two new services available to veterans through the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, or MVA.

"This initiative is extremely important for the Department of Defense," DiGiovanni said. "It sets a great benchmark and will greatly assist our veterans as they plan for their future."

Along with the departments of Labor, Transportation and Veterans Affairs, DOD is working with national credentialing agencies, states and other stakeholders to address the complex challenges of certification and licensure for veterans.

DOD's Credentialing and Licensing Task Force was established to help service members in high-demand fields gain industry-recognized, nationally portable credentials to increase their competitiveness in the private sector after separation from the military.

Most states require drivers to demonstrate their skills before issuing a commercial driver's license. Now, 34 states will waive the skills test, but not the written test, for eligible veterans and service members. More states are considering such a waiver, according to a DOD spokeswoman.

A provision of the commercial learner's permit rule gives state driver licensing agencies the authority to substitute two years of commercial motor vehicle safe-driving experience in the military equivalents of commercial motor vehicles for the skills-test portion of the commercial driver license.

The rule applies to active duty, Reserve, Guard and Coast Guard members, and veterans within 90 days of separation.

Starting this month, Maryland's MVA is offering a veteran indicator on driver's licenses and identification cards to help veterans identify themselves to access services and resources and is implementing a streamlined process for veterans to obtain commercial driver's licenses as allowed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration.

DiGiovanni said that in fiscal 2011, more than 63,000 service members had occupations whose skills involved driving trucks -- 28,247 on active duty and 35,080 in the Guard or Reserve.

"There are also tens of thousands of service members who are truck drivers as an additional duty," DiGiovanni said, "so this particular authorization is extremely important to the employability" of service members as they depart from the service."

Military truck drivers bring outstanding experience and training to the commercial trucking sector, he added.

"I had an opportunity to speak to a veterans group, and I asked them what [they] learned during their service to the military that would be useful in the private sector," DiGiovanni recalled.

The first thing they cite is leadership, he added, and then working as a team and making decisions in a very complex environment.

"So I think it's really important what these veterans bring to the table, particularly the commercial trucking sector," he said.

DiGiovanni closed his remarks by challenging the state of Maryland and veterans service organizations to continue to find ways to support our veterans.

Aves Thompson | Executive Director | Alaska Trucking Association | www.aktrucks.org

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Kim Skipper

From: mark san souci <sansouci01@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 24, 2013 3:19 PM
To: Kim Skipper; Aaron Schroeder
Cc: 'SanSouci, Mark CIV OSD PR'
Subject: Thank You for HB B4

Importance: High

Kim and Aaron,

I saw this today, and thank you! I will be supporting both HB 46 and HB 84. Question: Please advise on strategy (if any) of including the military spouse endorsement language into HB 84. Also, Kim, can you tell me whether or when the military student identifier issue may make it as a bill? Thanks so much you guys! Mark

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill.asp?session=28&bill=HB84

MARK B. SAN SOUCI

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