

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
SENATE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

April 13, 2023

1:32 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator James Kaufman, Chair
Senator David Wilson, Vice Chair
Senator Robert Myers

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Löki Tobin
Senator Jesse Kiehl

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

SENATE BILL NO. 123

"An Act relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers' license requirements; and providing for an effective date."

- MOVED SB 123 OUT OF COMMITTEE

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: SB 123

SHORT TITLE: LICENSE REQUIREMENTS: COMM. DRIVERS

SPONSOR(S): TRANSPORTATION

04/05/23	(S)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
04/05/23	(S)	TRA, L&C
04/11/23	(S)	TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205
04/11/23	(S)	Heard & Held
04/11/23	(S)	MINUTE(TRA)
04/13/23	(S)	TRA AT 1:30 PM BUTROVICH 205

WITNESS REGISTER

DON ETHERIDGE, Lobbyist
Alaska American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial
Organizations (AFL-CIO)
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 123.

TETYANA ROBBINS, CEO and Co-Founder

Ukraine Relief Program
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Testified in support of SB 123.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:32:34 PM](#)

CHAIR JAMES KAUFMAN called the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Present at the call to order were Senators Myers, Wilson and Chair Kaufman.

^#sb123

SB 123-LICENSE REQUIREMENTS: COMM. DRIVERS

[1:33:12 PM](#)

CHAIR KAUFMAN announced the consideration of SENATE BILL NO. 123 "An Act relating to commercial motor vehicle drivers' license requirements; and providing for an effective date."

This is the second hearing and the intention is to hear public testimony and report the bill from committee.

[1:33:59 PM](#)

CHAIR KAUFMAN opened public testimony on SB 123.

[1:34:19 PM](#)

DON ETHERIDGE, Lobbyist, Alaska American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), Juneau, Alaska, testified in support of SB 123. He expressed his belief that the proposed legislation would remove barriers for those in rural Alaska seeking to obtain CDLs and related employment. He opined that the training and testing offer excellent commercial vehicle driving preparation.

[1:35:43 PM](#)

TETYANA ROBBINS, CEO and Co-Founder, Ukraine Relief Program, Anchorage, Alaska, testified in support of SB 123. She stated that her relief program brought approximately 1,000 Ukrainians to safety here in Alaska. A large number settled in Anchorage, others in Mat-Su, Delta Junction, Fairbanks, Dutch Harbor, Kodiak, Ketchikan, and Juneau. The most important aspect of this program is finding employment. She opined, from personal experience, that the best way to be productive, find friends, and join the community is through a job. Many Ukrainians have experience with heavy equipment and driving trucks and buses. She learned that Alaska is not well-coordinated with other states. She noted that a driver can obtain a CDL quickly in

other states. She hoped that Alaska does not lose good, professional drivers to other states.

[1:39:28 PM](#)

CHAIR KAUFMAN closed public testimony on SB 123.

[1:39:40 PM](#)

SENATOR MYERS commented that SB 123 pertains to his profession outside of the legislature. Initially, he wondered if this bill would help CDL drivers. He expressed satisfaction that the proposed legislation will help. There is an increased need for drivers in construction and mining. He opined that SB 123 will remove a significant barrier and help people get to work.

[1:41:06 PM](#)

SENATOR WILSON agreed with the previous speaker that SB 123 is a helpful bill.

[1:41:25 PM](#)

CHAIR KAUFMAN solicited the will of the committee.

[1:41:32 PM](#)

SENATOR MYERS moved to report SB 123, work order 33-LS0721\A, from committee with individual recommendations and attached fiscal note(s).

[1:41:47 PM](#)

CHAIR KAUFMAN found no objection and SB 123 was reported from the Senate Transportation Standing Committee.

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[1:41:52 PM](#)

At ease.

[1:43:04 PM](#)

CHAIR KAUFMAN reconvened the meeting.

[1:43:21 PM](#)

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Kaufman adjourned the Senate Transportation Standing Committee meeting at 1:43 p.m.