

HB

46

<TARGET><BILL>HB 46</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
46</SUBJECT><COMM>HTRA28</COMM></TARGET>

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Peggy Wilson, Chair
House Transportation Committee

FROM: Representative Dan Saddler -DRS

DATE: February 12, 2013

RE: Scheduling HB 46, Waive CDL Skill Test for Certain Veterans

I respectfully request a hearing for HB 46, Waive CDL Skill Test for Certain Veterans, in the House Transportation Committee. Attached you will find the required information.

If you need any additional information, please contact Kim Skipper at 465-6598

Thank you for your consideration.

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER SPONSOR STATEMENT

House Bill 46

“An Act relating to regulations adopted by the Department of Administration waiving the commercial motor vehicle driving skills test for certain drivers with military commercial motor vehicle experience.”

HB 46 allows the state of Alaska to waive the commercial driver’s license road skills test for Alaska military personnel who earned their driving experience operating commercial-grade vehicles in the armed services.

The modern U.S. military is a highly mobile force, depending on skilled drivers operating a wide range of vehicles, under often harsh conditions. Impending budget cuts and troop reductions mean thousands of Alaska service members, including active duty, Guard and Reserve, will soon be hanging up their uniforms to seek civilian jobs.

In Alaska, where many trades and occupations involve transportation of goods and people across challenging landscapes, a commercial driver’s license (CDL) is a valuable credential that can offer a significant boost to those seeking to enter the civilian work force, whether in tourism, commercial fishing, construction, oil field services or other industries.

HB 46 seeks to help returning Alaska military personnel find good jobs, and to help Alaska businesses find qualified and credentialed employees, by acknowledging that many military drivers already possess the skills they need to be safe, productive civilian drivers.

HB 46 directs the Department of Administration to adopt regulations in accordance with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration guidelines, allowing the Alaska Division of Motor Vehicles to waive the road test in accordance with federal law.

To be eligible for a waiver, a driver must have spent the last two years or more driving the kind of equipment he expects to use in a civilian job, must have worked in the past 90 days as a military driver and must meet federal exemption requirements outlined in CFR 383.77. He/she also cannot have ever had any license suspended or revoked, had more than one minor traffic violation, been convicted of any driving offense involving drugs or alcohol, or been convicted for any serious traffic violation involving an accident.

Alaskans who honed their driving skills while in service to our nation deserve to have that experience validated and honored in the civilian world. HB 46 is an important tool to help them get the credentials they need to land good civilian jobs, and to help Alaska employers hire skilled and motivated employees.

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

HB 46 – Expected Witnesses to Testify

TELECONFERENCE

Aves Thompson – Alaska Trucking Association

Potential for other members of Alaska Trucking Association

Mark San Souci – Regional Liaison Northwest, Dept. of Defense State Liaison Office

Amy Erickson – Division Director, Alaska Dept. of Motor Vehicles

James Hasting – Alaska Veterans Advisory Council, Heroes to Hire

Alaska Trucking Association, Inc.

3443 Minnesota Drive · Anchorage, Alaska 99503 · Phone (907) 276-1149 · Fax (907) 274-1946

www.aktrucks.org

The authoritative voice of the trucking industry in Alaska

HB 46 WAIVE CDL SKILLS TEST FOR CERTAIN VETERANS

House State Affairs Committee

8:00 am, February 12, 2013

Aves D. Thompson, Executive Director

Alaska Trucking Association

Thank you. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am Aves Thompson, Executive Director of the Alaska Trucking Association. The Alaska Trucking Association is a state wide organization representing the interests of our nearly 200 member companies.

I am here today to testify in support of HB 46.

One of the pressing problems in our industry today is to find qualified drivers for the commercial vehicles that we use to deliver freight. As you all know, “if you got it, a truck brought it...” We spend a lot of time and effort recruiting and retaining good drivers. The regulatory bar has been raised in the past few years to further increase the professionalism of drivers in our industry. When someone says he or she is just a truck driver, they miss the mark completely. Truck driving is a profession that requires a great deal of in-depth knowledge of the regulations as well as driving skills to navigate a large rig through our



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highway system. Alaska has some of the best drivers in the nation. They become outstanding drivers through training, experience and their own enlightened self-interest because sometimes their driving skills can very well save their own lives or the lives of others.

As an industry, we welcome our returning veterans and appreciate this opportunity to do something to support them as well as to help ourselves. These men and women have had some of the best truck driving training available and will also have a good deal of recent hands on experience in driving big rigs. With the proper certifications as to a veteran's experience, we support waiving the skills test for the issuance of a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). A number of other states have similar programs for their veterans and we should do no less for our returning veterans.

As a veteran myself and on behalf of our membership, we are proud to support our veterans and to support HB46 and urge that you pass this bill out of committee with "do pass" recommendations. Thank you.



If you got it, a truck brought it...

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

Office 907 276-1149 | Mobile 907 240-0114 | Fax 907 274-1946



February 11, 2013

Rep. Dan Saddler
State Capitol Room 104
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Rep. Dan Saddler,

As the largest tour operator in the State of Alaska, we would like to voice our support for the passage of HB46. Holland America Princess (HAP Alaska/Yukon) employs nearly 400 motorcoach drivers. We rely on this cadre of trained and skilled drivers as an essential part of delivering the visitor experience. However, finding skilled drivers can be a challenge, especially due to the seasonality of the tourist season in Alaska. Passage of HB46 would expand the pool of eligible drivers and ease the burden of testing for those with certain military commercial motor vehicle experience.

Both Holland America Line and Princess Cruises have a long history of supporting those in uniform – from recruiting at veteran and military job fairs, to our hiring practices, to providing donations during the holidays, to employees volunteering at military appreciation events. Last fall, HAP Alaska was recognized by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESRG) and Stand Down (an event organized by the Veterans Administration) for their support of active, reserve, and retired military.

Alaska tops the list as having a veteran population of 14 percent - nearly double that of the rest of the nation, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. HB46 supports the efforts of community members who work to develop and promote a culture of support in the private sector. This bill along with the efforts of corporations to hire the military, are essential components to serving those who serve us at home and abroad.

Thank you for your time and for sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Bustamante".

Bruce Bustamante

HAP Alaska/Yukon, Princess Cruises
VP, Community & Public Affairs
Direct: (907) 264-8044



DoD-State Liaison Office

**OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(MILITARY COMMUNITY AND FAMILY POLICY)**

4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

February 6, 2013

**The Honorable Dan Saddler
Alaska State House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 104,
Juneau, AK 99801**

Dear Representative Saddler,

On behalf of the Department of Defense, we want to thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 46. This effort will greatly aid separating Service members who move back to Alaska upon military separation or retirement with gaining occupation licensing in the critical field of commercial truck driving when they transition to civilian life.

The issue of aiding our new veterans in employment transition is one of our top priorities for 2013 and one of the key elements of the Veterans Employment Initiative of the current Administration. The policy as currently represented in House Bill 46 will enable Alaska to join 44 other states also providing this kind of help to our separating Service members; and since Alaska had 1,231 Service members move back to the state in Fiscal Year 2012, the occupational licensing help your policy change provides will have a significant personal impact for many of those heroes in the trucking career field.

Aided by your leadership in the House, the Alaska legislature has been a champion in addressing a number of key military family issues for the past six years. We intend to provide as much information and support as possible as this policy initiative moves forward in upcoming hearings. However, if you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact me at (571) 309-4622, or at mark.sansouci@osd.mil.

With Alaska's continued dedication to our military, our Service members can complete their missions, overseas and at home, knowing that you are taking care of their families.

Sincerely,

**Mark San Souci
Regional Liaison Northwest
Department of Defense State Liaison Office**

Improving the Lives of Military Members and their Families

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2013 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 46 (A)
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB046-DOA-DMV-2-08-13
Title: WAIVE CDL SKILL TEST FOR CERTAIN
VETERANS
Sponsor: SADDLER
Requester: House State Affairs

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: Motor Vehicles
Allocation: Motor Vehicles
OMB Component Number: 2348

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2014 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2014 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2014	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants & Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None							
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

Change in Revenues							
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Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2013) cost: 0.0

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2014) cost: 0.0

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? yes
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed? 01/01/14

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable, initial version.

Prepared By: <u>Amy Erickson, Director</u>	Phone: <u>(907)269-5999</u>
Division: <u>Motor Vehicles</u>	Date: <u>02/08/2013 08:23 AM</u>
Approved By: <u>Curtis Thayer, Deputy Commissioner</u>	Date: <u>02/08/13</u>
<u>Department of Administration</u>	

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB046

Analysis

This legislation will allow for the development of regulations by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to provide drivers with recent military commercial vehicle driving experience the opportunity to waive the driving skills test required in Alaska Statute 28.33.100(a)(3) and 49 CFR 383.113.

This bill has no fiscal impact on the DMV.



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(MILITARY COMMUNITY AND FAMILY POLICY)

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