

HB

46

<TARGET><BILL>HB 46</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
46</SUBJECT><COMM>SSTA28</COMM></TARGET>

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 3/4/13

FURTHER: Transportation

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE: 3/12/13

State Affairs Committee considered HOUSE BILL NO. 46

HB 46 WAIVE CDL SKILL TEST FOR CERTAIN VETERANS

"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."

and recommends:

- be replaced with SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- adopt previous SCS _____ (_____) Same Title Technical Title Change
 New Title/SCR No. _____
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt _____ Letter of Intent
- further referral to _____ Committee

Dept Abbr.	
ADM	LWF
CED	LAW
COR	LEG
CRT	MVA
EED	DNR
DEC	DPS
DFG	REV
GOV	DOT
DHS	UA

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S)				
Dept.	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero	FN #
ADM			0	1

APPROPRIATION - no fiscal note

SIGNATURES AND RECOMMENDATIONS:	PRINTED LAST NAME	DO PASS	DO NOT PASS	NO REC	AMEND
	W. Klechowski	✓			
	Gohett	✓			
	Gressel	✓			
	S. S. S. S.	✓			
CHAIR:	J. J. J.	✓			

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session:
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
Phone: (907) 465-3783
Fax: (907) 465-2293
Toll Free: (877) 460-3783



Interim:
12641 Old Glenn Hwy., Ste. 201
Eagle River, AK 99577
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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Fred Dyson, Chair
Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Representative Dan Saddler *Dan Saddler*

DATE: March 4, 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 Senate State Affairs 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.

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	Included in	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
	Appropriation Requested	Governor's FY2014 Request	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:	Amy Erickson, Director	Phone:	(907)269-5999
Division:	Motor Vehicles	Date:	02/08/2013 08:23 AM
Approved By:	Curtis Thayer, Deputy Commissioner	Date:	02/08/13
	Department of Administration		

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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Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

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- FACTS & RESEARCH
- ABOUT FMCSA

Home > Registration & Licensing > Military CDL Skills Test Waiver Forms

Military CDL Skills Test Waiver Forms

Overview

Company Registration

- Registration Overview
- What is a HM Safety Permit?
- What is a USDOT Number?
- What is Operating Authority?
- Registration Steps
- What Forms Do I need?
- Licensing & Insurance Requirements
- New Company Requirements (New Entrant Program)

How to Register

- Online Registration
- Download Registration Forms

Find a Company's Status

- By USDOT Number/Name
- By Operating Authority

Driver Registration

- Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program
- CDL - Medical Certification Requirements
- CDL - Medical Certification Requirements (FAQs)

In May, 2011, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration finalized the Commercial Learner's Permit rule. Within that rule is a provision that gives State Driver Licensing Agencies (SDLA) the authority to substitute two years of CMV safe driving experience in military equivalents of commercial motor vehicles, for the skills test portion of the commercial driver license skills test.

The regulation, 49 CFR 383.77, provides guidance for SDLAs which requires the applicant to certify: 1) his/ her safe driving experience; 2) that he or she has not held more than one license (except a military DL) in the past two years; 3) has not had his/her base State issued driver license suspended, revoked or cancelled; and, 3) has not had convictions in any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying CDL offenses listed elsewhere in the regulations. There are also other requirements that States must recognize in order to take advantage of this Skills Test Waiver, but the process allows States to assist veterans and active duty personnel in their transition from their military occupation to a civilian career. As more and more of our military troops return home from active duty, the Department of Transportation and FMCSA have joined with the Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs to ease this process.

FMCSA, in collaboration with the US Army, Department of Defense and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, has generated a standardized *Application for Military Skills Test Waiver form*. This document addresses all of the issues captured in the new regulation including which violations can deny the waiver; identifying the specific type(s) of vehicle which the service member was licensed to drive; and, an endorsement by the service member's commanding officer of the safe driving record. For a list of the States which currently offer the skills test waiver for military drivers see the map.*

Related Links
Application for Military Skills Test Waiver form
Military Skills Test Waiver Status Map

Feedback | Privacy Policy | USA.gov | Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) | Accessibility | OIG Hotline | Web Policies and Important Links | Site Map | Plug-ins

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Overview

Federal Regulations

- All
- Driver
- Vehicle
- Company
- FMCSA Hazmat
- Regulatory Guidance

Rulemakings and Notices

- Final Rules
- Interim Final Rules
- Proposed Rules
- Notices

Topics of Interest

- Hours-of-Service (HOS) Summary
- Distracted Driving
- Hazardous Materials
- Intermodal Equipment Providers (IEP)
- New Entrant Safety Assurance
- Medical Program
- Medical Expert Panels
- NAFTA Rules
- Drug & Alcohol Testing

Substitute for driving skills tests.

Regulations current to Aug 30, 2012

Search for

- ▲ All Regulations
- ▲ Part 383

< 383.75

383.79 >

Subpart E - Testing and licensing procedures

§ 383.77 Substitute for driving skills tests for drivers with military CMV experience.

Related Links
Disclaimer
Interpretation
Help

At the discretion of a State, the driving skills test as specified in §383.113 may be waived for a CMV driver with military CMV experience who is currently licensed at the time of his/her application for a CDL, and substituted with an applicant's driving record in combination with certain driving experience. The State shall impose conditions and limitations to restrict the applicants from whom a State may accept alternative requirements for the skills test described in §383.113. Such conditions must require at least the following:

- (a) An applicant must certify that, during the two-year period immediately prior to applying for a CDL, he/she
 - (1) Has not had more than one license (except for a military license);
 - (2) Has not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;
 - (3) Has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses contained in §383.51(b);
 - (4) Has not had more than one conviction for any type of motor vehicle for serious traffic violations contained in §383.51(e); and
 - (5) Has not had had any conviction for a violation of military, State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with any traffic accident, and has no record of an accident in which he/she was at fault; and
- (b) An applicant must provide evidence and certify that he/she:
 - (1) Is regularly employed or was regularly employed within the last 90 days in a military position requiring operation of a CMV;
 - (2) Was exempted from the CDL requirements in §383.3(c); and
 - (3) Was operating a vehicle representative of the CMV the driver applicant operates or expects to operate, for at least the 2 years immediately preceding discharge from the military.

[76 FR 26887, May 9, 2011]



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

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 - Interim Final Rules
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 - Hours-of-Service (HOS) Summary
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 - Intermodal Equipment Providers (IEP)
 - New Entrant Safety Assurance
 - Medical Program
 - Medical Expert Panels
 - NAFTA Rules
 - Drug & Alcohol Testing

Required skills.

Regulations current to Aug 30, 2012

Search for

Examples: Medical Form, 391.53, 391

- All Regulations
- Part 383

< 383.111

383.115 >

Subpart G - Required knowledge and skills

§ 383.113 Required skills.

Related Links
Disclaimer
Interpretation
Help

(a) *Pre-trip vehicle inspection skills.* Applicants for a CDL must possess the following basic pre-trip vehicle inspection skills for the vehicle class that the driver operates or expects to operate:

(1) *All test vehicles.* Applicants must be able to identify each safety-related part on the vehicle and explain what needs to be inspected to ensure a safe operating condition of each part, including:

- (i) Engine compartment;
- (ii) Cab/engine start;
- (iii) Steering;
- (iv) Suspension;
- (v) Brakes;
- (vi) Wheels;
- (vii) Side of vehicle;
- (viii) Rear of vehicle; and

(ix) Special features of tractor trailer, school bus, or coach/transit bus, if this type of vehicle is being used for the test.

(2) *Air brake equipped test vehicles.* Applicants must demonstrate the following skills with respect to inspection and operation of air brakes:

- (i) Locate and verbally identify air brake operating controls and monitoring devices;
- (ii) Determine the motor vehicle's brake system condition for proper adjustments and that air system connections between motor vehicles have been properly made and secured;
- (iii) Inspect the low pressure warning device(s) to ensure that they will activate in emergency situations;
- (iv) With the engine running, make sure that the system maintains an adequate supply of compressed air;
- (v) Determine that required minimum air pressure build up time is within acceptable limits and that required alarms and emergency devices automatically deactivate at the proper pressure level; and
- (vi) Operationally check the brake system for proper performance.

(b) *Basic vehicle control skills.* All applicants for a CDL must possess and demonstrate the following basic motor vehicle control skills for the vehicle class that the driver operates or expects to operate:

- (1) Ability to start, warm up, and shut down the engine;
- (2) Ability to put the motor vehicle in motion and accelerate smoothly, forward and backward;
- (3) Ability to bring the motor vehicle to a smooth stop;
- (4) Ability to back the motor vehicle in a straight line, and check path and clearance while backing;
- (5) Ability to position the motor vehicle to negotiate safely and then make left and right turns;
- (6) Ability to shift as required and select appropriate gear for speed and highway conditions; and
- (7) Ability to back along a curved path.

(c) *Safe on-road driving skills.* All applicants for a CDL must possess and demonstrate the following safe on-road driving skills for their vehicle class:

- (1) Ability to use proper visual search methods;
- (2) Ability to signal appropriately when changing direction in traffic;
- (3) Ability to adjust speed to the configuration and condition of the roadway, weather and visibility conditions, traffic conditions, and motor vehicle, cargo and driver conditions;
- (4) Ability to choose a safe gap for changing lanes, passing other vehicles, as well as for crossing or entering traffic;
- (5) Ability to position the motor vehicle correctly before and during a turn to prevent other vehicles from passing on the wrong side, as well as to prevent problems caused by off-tracking;
- (6) Ability to maintain a safe following distance depending on the condition of the road, visibility, and vehicle weight;

(7) Ability to adjust operation of the motor vehicle to prevailing weather conditions including speed selection, braking, direction changes, and following distance to maintain control, and

(8) Ability to observe the road and the behavior of other motor vehicles, particularly before changing speed and direction

(d) *Test areas*. Skills tests shall be conducted in on-street conditions or under a combination of on-street and off-street conditions.

(e) *Simulation technology*. A State may utilize simulators to perform skills testing, but under no circumstances as a substitute for the required testing in on-street conditions.

[76 FR 26889, May 9, 2011]

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APPLICATION FOR MILITARY SKILLS TEST WAIVER

The Commercial Driver License (CDL) skills test waiver form may be used by service members who are currently licensed and who are or were employed within the last 90 days in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle equivalent to a Commercial Motor Vehicle (CMV). This waiver allows a qualified service member to apply for a CDL without skills testing. CDL knowledge (written) test(s) cannot be waived. *The transfer of School Bus(S) and/or Passenger (P) endorsements under this Waiver Program are prohibited.*

APPLICANT INFORMATION

NAME (Last, First, Middle)	STATE /DRIVER LICENSE NUMBER (required)	APPLICATION DATE	
RESIDENCE ADDRESS (STREET)	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
MAILING ADDRESS (IF DIFFERENT)	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
			COUNTY

DRIVER RECORD CERTIFICATION

During the 2-year period immediately preceding this date:

- Have you had more than one license (except for a military license)? YES NO
- Has your license been suspended, revoked, cancelled or disqualified in this or any state? YES NO

Have you been convicted of any violations described below in any type of motor vehicle?

- Being under the influence of alcohol as prescribed by state law YES NO
- Being under the influence of a controlled substance YES NO
- Having an alcohol concentration of 0.04 or greater while operating a CMV YES NO
- Refusing to take an alcohol test as required by a State jurisdiction under its implied consent laws or regulations as defined in 49 CFR 383.72 YES NO
- Leaving the scene of an accident YES NO
- Using the vehicle to commit a felony (other than manufacturing, distributing or dispensing a controlled substance) YES NO
- Driving a CMV while your CDL is revoked, suspended, cancelled; or you are disqualified from operating a CMV YES NO
- Causing a fatality through the negligent operation of a CMV (including motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide by motor vehicle, or negligent homicide) YES NO
- Using the vehicle in the commission of a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance YES NO

Have you had more than one conviction for any of the violations described below in any type of motor vehicle?

- Speeding in excess of 15 mph or more above the posted speed limit YES NO
- Driving recklessly, as defined by State or local law or regulation (including offenses of driving a motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property) YES NO
- Making improper or erratic lane changes YES NO
- Following the vehicle ahead too closely YES NO
- Violating State or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than a parking violation) arising in connection with a fatal accident YES NO
- Driving a CMV without obtaining a CDL YES NO
- Driving a CMV without a CDL in the driver's possession YES NO
- Driving a CMV without the proper class of CDL and/or endorsements for a specific vehicle group being operated or for the passengers or type of cargo being transported YES NO
- Violating a State or local law or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control prohibiting texting while driving YES NO
- Violating a State or local law or ordinance on motor vehicle traffic control restricting or prohibiting the use of a hand held mobile telephones while driving YES NO

Have you had any conviction for a violation of military, state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control (other than parking violation) arising in connection with any traffic accident and have no record of an accident in which you were at fault? YES NO

CERTIFICATION OF DRIVING EXPERIENCE

- Have you been regularly employed or were you regularly employed within the last 90 days in a military position requiring the operation of a military motor vehicle that was representative of a commercial motor vehicle (CMV)?..... YES NO
- Were you exempted from the CDL licensing requirements for driving a military vehicle on state roads and highways in accordance with 49 CFR §383.3 (c)? YES NO
- Have you operated a military motor vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle (CMV) that you operate or expect to operate, for at least the 2 years immediately preceding discharge from the military? YES NO




I certify under penalty of perjury that the information on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE	DATE
-----------------------	------

COMMANDING OFFICER'S CERTIFICATION OF COMMERCIAL DRIVING EXPERIENCE

COMMANDING OFFICER'S NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)		TELEPHONE NUMBER	
STREET ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTY
SERVICE MEMBER'S DATE OF QUALIFICATION, FROM		TO	
SERVICE MEMBER'S NAME		EXPIRATION DATE (US Gov'l Motor Vehicle Operator Identification Card / License)	

Circle the highest class of vehicles the service member has been driving:

Class	Vehicle Description	EXAMPLE OF VEHICLES IN GROUP
A	* 5 th WHEEL - Truck Tractor/Semitrailer Any combination of vehicles with a GCWR of 26,001 or more pounds provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.	
A	* PINTLE HOOK - Truck Trailer Combination Any combination of vehicles with a GCWR of 26,001 or more pounds provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.	
B	Any single vehicle with a GVWR of 26,001 or more pounds or any such vehicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds GVWR.	

The vehicle the service member operates is equipped with a full air brake system: YES NO

The vehicle the service member operates is equipped with an air-over-hydraulic braking system: YES NO

The transmission in the vehicle the service member operates is: AUTOMATIC MANUAL

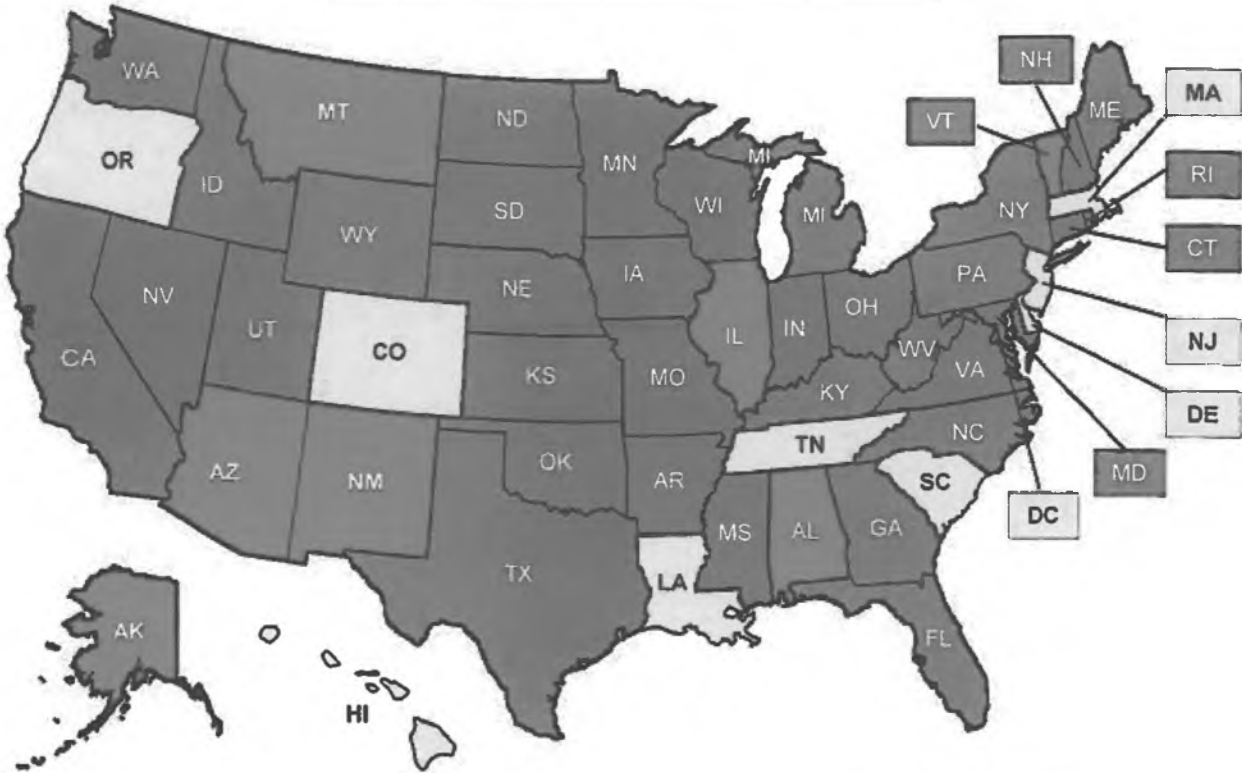
I certify that the service member named on the front of this document is/was assigned in a job/assignment requiring the operation of a commercial motor vehicle, the service member's driving experience has been verified; and the information provided herein is true and correct to my knowledge, information and belief. I also certify that I am an officer of the Armed Forces with the authority to administer oaths; and who has the general powers of a notary public.

PRINT COMMANDING OFFICER'S NAME/RANK	DATE
--------------------------------------	------

SIGNATURE	DATE
-----------	------

Authority of Article 136, Uniform Code of Military Justice or 10 U.S.C. 1044A

Military Skills Test Waiver Current Status



L E G E N D	States with Military Skills Test Waiver	34
	States working on the process	10
	States that do not currently accept a Military Skills Test Waiver	?

- Arkansas
- California
- Connecticut
- Florida
- Georgia
- Idaho
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Maine
- Maryland
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- South Dakota
- Texas
- Utah
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

- Colorado
- Delaware
- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Louisiana
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- Oregon
- South Carolina
- Tennessee

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Illinois
- Montana
- New Mexico
- Vermont

Status as of January 9, 2013

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



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

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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...



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

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.

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REPRESENTATIVE DAN SADDLER

HB 46 – Expected Witnesses to Testify

TELECONFERENCE

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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