

1 State of Arkansas  
2 95th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2025  
4

As Engrossed: H3/12/25

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1569

5 By: Representative Long  
6 By: Senator J. Payton  
7

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO CREATE THE SECURE ROADS AND SAFE TRUCKING  
10 ACT OF 2025; TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING A COMMERCIAL  
11 DRIVER LICENSE AND THE OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL MOTOR  
12 VEHICLES; TO REQUIRE THAT OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL  
13 MOTOR VEHICLES HAVE PROFICIENCY IN THE ENGLISH  
14 LANGUAGE; TO REQUIRE THAT OPERATORS OF COMMERCIAL  
15 MOTOR VEHICLES HAVE A VALID COMMERCIAL DRIVER  
16 LICENSE; TO CREATE ADDITIONAL CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR  
17 OFFENSES COMMITTED WHILE OPERATING A COMMERCIAL MOTOR  
18 VEHICLE; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER  
19 PURPOSES.  
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21

**Subtitle**

22 TO CREATE THE SECURE ROADS AND SAFE  
23 TRUCKING ACT OF 2025; TO AMEND THE LAW  
24 CONCERNING COMMERCIAL DRIVERS; TO CREATE  
25 PENALTIES FOR OFFENSES COMMITTED WHILE  
26 OPERATING A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE;  
27 AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.  
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30 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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32 SECTION 1. DO NOT CODIFY. Title.

33 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Secure Roads and Safe  
34 Trucking Act of 2025".  
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36 SECTION 2. DO NOT CODIFY. Legislative findings.



1 The General Assembly finds that:

2 (1) Government entities have existing requirements for the  
3 operators of various modes of commercial transportation to demonstrate  
4 English proficiency;

5 (2) A requirement to demonstrate English proficiency is not  
6 unique to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle and is required for  
7 other modes of commercial transportation;

8 (3) A demonstration of English proficiency is required during  
9 the licensure process for a pilot's license and instrument rating under 14  
10 C.F.R. Parts 61, 63, 65, and 107; and

11 (4) The International Civil Aviation Organization, of which the  
12 United States is a member, requires operators of commercial aircraft to  
13 demonstrate English language proficiency.

14  
15 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code Title 27, Chapter 23, Subchapter 1, is  
16 amended to add additional sections to read as follows:

17 27-23-132. Requirement to possess commercial driver license from valid  
18 jurisdiction.

19 An individual operating a commercial motor vehicle within this state  
20 shall possess:

21 (1) A valid commercial driver license issued by a state,  
22 territory, or possession of the United States, the District of Columbia, or  
23 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; or

24 (2) Both:

25 (A) A valid commercial driver license issued by a state,  
26 territory, district, or province of Canada or Mexico; and

27 (B) A valid work visa.

28 27-23-133. Operation of commercial motor vehicle by certain visa  
29 holders.

30 (a)(1) A holder of a B-1, B-2, or B-1/B-2 nonimmigrant visitor visa  
31 under 22 C.F.R. §§ 41.31 - 41.33, as they existed on January 1, 2025, shall  
32 not perform labor or services operating a commercial motor vehicle within  
33 this state.

34 (2) The act of operating a commercial motor vehicle is  
35 considered labor.

36 (b) A commercial motor carrier as defined in § 27-14-613 that is

1 domiciled in the United States and operating in Arkansas shall not employ or  
2 contract with a holder of a B-1, B-2, or B-1/B-2 nonimmigrant visitor visa  
3 under 22 C.F.R. §§ 41.31 – 41.33, as they existed on January 1, 2025, as an  
4 operator of a commercial motor vehicle within this state.

5 (c) Upon a finding that the holder of a B-1, B-2, or B-1/B-2  
6 nonimmigrant visitor visa under 22 C.F.R. §§ 41.31–41.33, as it existed on  
7 January 1, 2025, operated a commercial motor vehicle:

8 (1) The commercial motor vehicle shall be impounded, subject to  
9 the process for the impoundment of a motor vehicle as set forth under § 27-  
10 22-109(b) and (c);

11 (2) The operator of the commercial motor vehicle who violates  
12 this section shall be subject to a fine of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars.

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14 27-23-134. Exclusion of reciprocity.

15 A nondomiciled commercial driver license or nondomiciled commercial  
16 learner’s permit issued by a state other than Arkansas under 49 C.F.R. §  
17 383.71, as it existed on January 1, 2025, is not valid to authorize the  
18 operation of a commercial motor vehicle within this state.

19  
20 27-23-135. English proficiency.

21 An operator of a commercial motor vehicle shall demonstrate proficiency  
22 in the English language sufficient to:

- 23 (1) Read road signs and warning signs;
- 24 (2) Understand traffic control devices; and
- 25 (3) Communicate effectively in an emergency with:
  - 26 (A) Emergency services;
  - 27 (B) Law enforcement; and
  - 28 (C) Other drivers.

29  
30 27-23-136. Noncitizen operating commercial motor vehicle without  
31 domestic commercial driver license.

32 (a) A person commits the offense of operating a commercial motor  
33 vehicle without a domestic commercial driver license if he or she:

- 34 (1) Is not a citizen of the United States;
- 35 (2) Operates a commercial motor vehicle; and
- 36 (3) Does not hold a valid commercial driver license under § 27-

1 23-132.

2 (b)(1) The offense of operating a commercial motor vehicle without a  
3 domestic commercial driver license is a violation and is subject to a fine of  
4 five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

5 (2) Upon an arrest for a violation of this section, the  
6 commercial motor vehicle that the person was operating shall be impounded,  
7 subject to the process for the impoundment of a motor vehicle stated under §  
8 27-22-109(b) and (c).

9 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

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11 27-23-137. Criminal use of a commercial motor vehicle.

12 (a) A person commits the offense of criminal use of a commercial motor  
13 vehicle if he or she:

14 (1) Is not a citizen of the United States;

15 (2) Does not hold a valid commercial driver license under § 27-  
16 23-132; and

17 (3) Causes the bodily harm of another person while operating a  
18 commercial motor vehicle.

19 (b) The offense of criminal use of a commercial motor vehicle is a  
20 Class D felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of six (6) months.

21 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

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23 27-23-138. Vehicular homicide with a commercial motor vehicle.

24 (a) A person commits the offense of vehicular homicide with a  
25 commercial motor vehicle if he or she:

26 (1) Is not a citizen of the United States;

27 (2) Does not hold a valid commercial driver license under § 27-  
28 23-132; and

29 (3) Causes the death of another person while operating a  
30 commercial motor vehicle.

31 (b) The offense of vehicular homicide with a commercial motor vehicle  
32 is a Class B felony with a minimum term of imprisonment of ten (10) years.

33 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

34  
35 27-23-139. Operating commercial motor vehicle without sufficient  
36 English language proficiency.

1 (a) A person commits the offense of operating a commercial motor  
2 vehicle without sufficient English language proficiency if he or she:

3 (1) Operates a commercial vehicle; and

4 (2) Fails to demonstrate proficiency in the English language as  
5 required under § 27-23-135.

6 (b) The offense of operating a commercial motor vehicle without  
7 sufficient English language proficiency is a violation and is subject to a  
8 fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000).

9 (c) An offense under this section is a strict liability offense.

10  
11 27-23-140. Providing commercial motor vehicle to ineligible operator -  
12 Penalties - Definition.

13 (a) A commercial motor carrier commits the offense of providing a  
14 commercial motor vehicle to an ineligible operator if the commercial motor  
15 carrier negligently provides a commercial vehicle to a person who:

16 (1) Operates the commercial motor vehicle; and

17 (2) Violates § 27-23-133, § 27-23-136, or § 27-23-139.

18 (b) The offense of providing a commercial motor vehicle to an  
19 ineligible operator is a violation and is subject to a fine of ten thousand  
20 dollars (\$10,000).

21 (c) As used in this section, "commercial motor carrier" means the same  
22 as used in § 27-14-613.

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24 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
25 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that that the implementation of  
26 this act is essential to the safety of the citizens of the State of Arkansas;  
27 and that this act is immediately necessary because a delay in implementing  
28 this act could cause irreparable harm to public safety. Therefore, an  
29 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for  
30 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become  
31 effective on:

32 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

33 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
34 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
35 bill; or

36 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is

1 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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*/s/Long*

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