STATE OF NEW YORK

10325

IN SENATE

May 14, 2026

Introduced by Sen. COONEY -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the highway law, in relation to establishing the New York state commercial driver's license training program

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "New York state commercial driver's license training act".

§ 2. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature finds that a persistent shortage of qualified commercial drivers constrains economic activity and essential services. The cost of commercial driver's license training presents a meaningful barrier to entry for many residents, particularly in rural communities and smaller municipalities where training providers are less accessible and local government budgets are most constrained. It is therefore the intent of the legislature to establish a program that enables municipalities to defray the cost of commercial driver's license training for municipal employees.

§ 3. The highway law is amended by adding a new section 10-h to read as follows:

§ 10-h. Commercial driver's license training program. 1. For purposes of this article:

(a) "Commercial driver's license" or "CDL" means a commercial driver's license issued pursuant to article nineteen of the vehicle and traffic law, including any class or endorsement thereunder.

(b) "Eligible training provider" means any entity authorized to provide CDL training in the state of New York, including providers registered with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's training provider registry, community colleges of the state university of New York and the city university of New York, boards of cooperative educational services, and vocational training programs approved by the commissioner.

(c) "Municipality" means a city, town, village, or county of the state of New York.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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(d) "Program" means the New York state commercial driver's license training program established by this article.

2. There is hereby established within the department the New York state commercial driver's license training program. The commissioner shall administer the program and shall award grants to municipalities on a competitive basis for the purpose of funding commercial driver's license training for municipal employees in accordance with this article.

3. A municipality receiving a grant under this article may use such funds to pay, in whole or in part, for the following:

(a) Tuition, fees, and required educational materials for CDL training provided by an eligible training provider to employees of the municipality or to prospective employees who have received a conditional offer of municipal employment; and

(b) Examination fees, permit fees, and medical examination fees required to obtain a commercial driver's license.

4. (a) Funds shall be allocated among municipality types in proportion to each type's share of total local road centerline miles, as reported by the department in its most recent highway data report.

(b) In awarding grants, the commissioner shall seek to achieve geographic diversity across the state and shall give additional consideration to applications that:

(i) Serve municipalities with populations of five thousand or fewer;

(ii) Serve multiple municipalities pursuant to an intermunicipal agreement authorized under article five-G of the general municipal law;

(iii) Address documented shortages of commercial drivers for essential municipal services, including but not limited to snow removal, public works, sanitation, and school transportation; or

(iv) Include partnerships with eligible training providers that reduce the per-trainee cost of training.

5. (a) The commissioner shall, not later than one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section, promulgate an application process for the program. The application shall require:

(i) A description of the proposed use of funds, including the number of trainees to be served and the eligible training provider or providers to be utilized; and

(ii) Such other information as the commissioner may require.

(b) Grants shall be awarded not less frequently than annually. A municipality may, with the approval of the commissioner, subcontract administration of training activities to an eligible training provider, nonprofit workforce development organization, or board of cooperative educational services.

6. (a) Each municipality receiving a grant under this article shall submit to the commissioner, not later than one hundred eighty days after the end of the grant period, a report containing:

(i) The number of individuals who received training funded by the grant;

(ii) The number of such individuals who obtained a commercial driver's license; and

(iii) Expenditures of grant funds by category.

(b) The commissioner may audit any grant awarded under this article and may recover funds expended in violation of this section or the terms of the grant.

7. The commissioner may promulgate such rules and regulations as are necessary to implement this article.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the first of April next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.