

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to the law as it existed prior to this session of the General Assembly.

1 State of Arkansas
2 85th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2005

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1681

4
5 By: Representative Rosenbaum
6
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE
10 OWNERS OR CARRIERS WHO PERMIT A COMMERCIAL DRIVER
11 TO OPERATE A COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE THE
12 VEHICLE OR THE MOTOR CARRIER IS SUBJECT TO AN
13 OUT-OF-SERVICE ORDER OR WHO PERMIT OR ENCOURAGE
14 RAILROAD CROSSING VIOLATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO
15 PENALTIES FOR THAT VIOLATION; TO AMEND THE
16 DEFINITIONS CONTAINED IN ARKANSAS CODE § 27-23-
17 103; TO AMEND ARKANSAS CODE § 27-16-603(4) TO
18 APPLY ONLY TO OPERATION OF NONCOMMERCIAL
19 VEHICLES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
20

Subtitle

21 AN ACT PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR EMPLOYERS
22 PERMITTING ILLEGAL USE OF A COMMERCIAL
23 MOTOR VEHICLE.
24
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27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
28

29 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-23-106 is amended to read as follows:
30 27-23-106. Employer responsibilities.

31 (a) Each employer must require the applicant to provide the
32 information specified in § 27-23-105(c).

33 (b) No employer may knowingly allow, permit, or authorize a driver to
34 drive a commercial motor vehicle during any period:

35 (1) In which the driver has a driver license suspended, revoked,
36 or cancelled by a state; has lost the privilege to drive a commercial motor



1 vehicle in a state, or has been disqualified from driving a commercial motor
2 vehicle; or

3 (2) In which the driver has more than one (1) driver license; or

4 (3) In which the employee, the motor carrier, the driver, or the
5 vehicle operated by the employee or driver is subject to an out-of-service
6 order.

7 (c)(1) Any employer who once violates the provisions of subdivision
8 (b)(1) or (2) of this section shall, upon conviction, be fined a sum of five
9 hundred dollars (\$500), and each day's violation and each driver's violation
10 shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punished as such. Any
11 employer who violates the provisions of subdivision (b)(1) or (2) of this
12 section a second or subsequent time shall, upon conviction, be fined a sum of
13 one thousand dollars (\$1,000), and each day's violation and each driver's
14 violation shall constitute a separate offense and shall be punished as such.

15 (2) Any employer convicted of a violation of the provisions of
16 subdivision (b)(3) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty of not
17 less than ~~two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ two thousand seven
18 hundred fifty dollars (\$2,750) nor more than ~~ten thousand dollars (\$10,000)~~
19 eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000).

20 (3) Any employer who knowingly allows, requires, permits, or
21 authorizes a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in violation of
22 federal, state, or local law or regulation pertaining to one (1) or more of
23 the offenses listed in § 27-23-112(d) at a railroad-highway grade crossing
24 shall be subject to the civil penalties of subdivision (c)(2) of this
25 section, in addition to the disqualification provisions of § 27-23-112(e).

26

27 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-23-103 is amended to read as follows:
28 27-23-103. Definitions.

29 As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

30 (1) "Alcohol" or "alcoholic beverage" means:

31 (A) Ethyl alcohol, or ethanol; or

32 (B) Beer which is defined as beer, ale, stout, and other
33 similar fermented beverages, including sake or similar products, of any name
34 or description containing one-half of one percent (0.5%) or more of alcohol
35 by volume, brewed or produced from malt, wholly or in part, or from any
36 substitute therefore;

1 (C) Wine of not less than one-half of one percent (0.5%)
2 of alcohol by volume; or

3 (D) Distilled spirits, alcoholic spirits, and spirits,
4 which are defined as those substances known as ethyl alcohol, ethanol, or
5 spirits of wine in any form, including all dilutions and mixtures thereof
6 from whatever source or by whatever process produced;

7 (2) "Blood alcohol concentration" means:

8 (A) The number of grams of alcohol per one hundred
9 milliliters (100 ml) of blood;

10 (B) The number of grams of alcohol per two hundred ten
11 liters (210 l) of breath; or

12 (C) Blood and breath quantitative measures in accordance
13 with the current Arkansas Regulations for Blood Alcohol Testing promulgated
14 by the Department of Health;

15 (3) "Commerce" means:

16 (A) Trade, traffic, and transportation within the
17 jurisdiction of the United States between a place in a state and a place
18 outside of the state, including a place outside the United States; and

19 (B) Trade, traffic, and transportation in the United
20 States which affects any trade, traffic, and transportation within the
21 jurisdiction of the United States between a place in a state and a place
22 outside of the state, including a place outside the United States;

23 (4) "Commercial driver instruction permit" means a permit issued
24 pursuant to § 27-23-108(d);

25 (5) "Commercial driver license" means a license issued in
26 accordance with the requirements of this chapter to an individual which
27 authorizes the individual to drive a class of commercial motor vehicle;

28 (6) The "Commercial Driver License Information System" is the
29 information system established pursuant to the Commercial Motor Vehicle
30 Safety Act of 1986 to serve as a clearinghouse for locating information
31 related to the licensing and identification of commercial motor vehicle
32 drivers;

33 (7)(A) "Commercial motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle or
34 combination of motor vehicles used in commerce to transport passengers or
35 property if the motor vehicle:

36 (i) Has a gross combination weight rating of twenty-

1 six thousand one pounds (26,001 lbs.) or more inclusive of a towed unit with
2 a gross vehicle weight rating of more than ten thousand pounds (10,000 lbs.);

3 (ii) Has a gross vehicle weight rating of twenty-six
4 thousand one pounds (26,001 lbs.) or more;

5 (iii) Is designed to transport sixteen (16) or more
6 passengers, including the driver; or

7 (iv) Is of any size and is used in the
8 transportation of materials found to be hazardous, as a result of which the
9 motor vehicle is required to be placarded under the Hazardous Materials
10 Regulations, 49 C.F.R. part 172, subpart F.

11 (B) When out-of-service orders are involved, the term
12 "commercial motor vehicle" shall also include any self-propelled or towed
13 vehicle used on public highways in interstate commerce to transport
14 passengers or property when:

15 (i) The vehicle has a gross vehicle weight rating or
16 gross combination weight rating of ten thousand one (10,001) or more pounds;
17 or

18 (ii) The vehicle is used in the transportation of
19 hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under regulations
20 issued by the Secretary of Transportation under the Hazardous Materials
21 Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C. App. §§ 1801-1813;

22 (8) "Controlled substance" means a drug, substance, or immediate
23 precursor in Schedules I-VI of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, § 5-64-
24 101 et seq.;

25 (9) "Conviction" means an unvacated adjudication of guilt, a
26 determination that a person has violated or failed to comply with the law in
27 a court of original jurisdiction or by an authorized administrative tribunal,
28 an unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure the
29 person's appearance in court, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere accepted by
30 the court, the payment of a fine or court order, or violation of a condition
31 of release without bail, regardless of whether or not the penalty was
32 rebated, suspended, or prorated;

33 (10) "Disqualification" means any of the following three (3)
34 actions:

35 (A) The suspension, revocation, or cancellation of a
36 commercial driver license by the Office of Driver Services of the Department

1 of Finance and Administration or jurisdiction of issuance;

2 (B) A withdrawal of a person's privileges to drive a
3 commercial motor vehicle by the office or other jurisdiction as the result of
4 a violation of state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control
5 except for parking, vehicle weight, or vehicle defect violations; or

6 (C) A determination by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety
7 Administration that a person is not qualified to operate a commercial motor
8 vehicle;

9 (11) "Drive" means to drive, operate, or be in physical control
10 of a commercial motor vehicle on any public street or highway in the state or
11 in any place open to the general public for purposes of vehicular traffic;

12 (12) "Driver" means any person who drives, operates, or is in
13 physical control of a commercial motor vehicle on any public street or
14 highway in the state or in any place open to the general public for purposes
15 of vehicular traffic;

16 (13) "Driver applicant" or "applicant" means any person who has
17 applied for a commercial driver license.

18 ~~(13)~~(14) "Driver license" means a license issued by a state to
19 an individual which authorizes the individual to drive a motor vehicle;

20 ~~(14)~~(15) "Driving a commercial motor vehicle while under the
21 influence of alcohol" means committing any one (1) or more of the following
22 acts in a commercial motor vehicle:

23 (A) Driving a commercial motor vehicle while the person's
24 blood alcohol concentration is four-hundredths of one percent (0.04%) or
25 more;

26 (B) Driving while intoxicated in violation of § 5-65-103;
27 or

28 (C) Refusal to undergo such testing as is required by § 5-
29 65-202;

30 ~~(15)~~(16) "Employer" means any person, including the United
31 States, a state, or a political subdivision of a state, who owns or leases a
32 commercial motor vehicle or assigns a person to drive a commercial motor
33 vehicle;

34 ~~(16)~~(17) "Fatality" means the death of a person as a result of a
35 motor vehicle accident;

36 ~~(17)~~(18) "Felony" means any offense under state or federal law

1 that is punishable by death or imprisonment for a term exceeding one (1)
 2 year;

3 ~~(18)~~(19) "Foreign jurisdiction" means any jurisdiction other
 4 than a state of the United States;

5 ~~(19)~~(20) "Gross combination weight rating" means the value
 6 specified by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a combination or
 7 articulated vehicle. In the absence of a value specified by the
 8 manufacturer, the gross combination weight rating will be determined by
 9 adding the gross vehicle weight rating of the power unit and the total weight
 10 of the towed unit and any load thereon;

11 ~~(20)~~(21) "Gross vehicle weight rating" means the value specified
 12 by the manufacturer as the loaded weight of a single vehicle;

13 ~~(21)~~(22) "Hazardous materials" has the same meaning as that
 14 found in Section 103 of the Hazardous Materials Transportation Act, 49 U.S.C.
 15 App. § 1802;

16 ~~(22)~~(23) "Imminent hazard" means the existence of a condition
 17 that presents a substantial likelihood that death, serious illness, severe
 18 personal injury, or a substantial endangerment to health, property, or the
 19 environment may occur before the reasonably foreseeable completion date of a
 20 formal proceeding begun to lessen the risk of that death, illness, injury, or
 21 endangerment;

22 ~~(23)~~(24) "Motor vehicle" means a vehicle, machine, tractor,
 23 trailer, or semitrailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power used on
 24 highways, except that the term does not include a vehicle, machine, tractor,
 25 trailer, or semitrailer operated exclusively on a rail;

26 ~~(24)~~(25) "Nonresident CDL" means a commercial driver license
 27 issued by a state under either of the following two (2) conditions:

28 (A) To an individual domiciled in a foreign country
 29 meeting the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 383.23(b)(1); or

30 (B) To an individual domiciled in another state meeting
 31 the requirements of 49 C.F.R. § 383.23(b)(2);

32 ~~(25)~~(26) "Out-of-service order" means a declaration by an
 33 authorized enforcement officer of a federal, state, Canadian, Mexican, or
 34 local jurisdiction that a driver or motor carrier is temporarily prohibited
 35 from operating a commercial motor vehicle pursuant to § 27-23-113 or
 36 compatible laws, or that a commercial motor vehicle may not be operated;

1 ~~(26)~~(27) "School bus" means:

2 (A) A commercial motor vehicle used to transport
3 preprimary, primary, or secondary school students from home to school, from
4 school to home, or to and from school-sponsored events.

5 (B) "School bus" does not include a bus used as a common
6 carrier;

7 ~~(27)~~(28) "Serious traffic violation" means a conviction when
8 operating a commercial motor vehicle of:

9 (A) Excessive speeding, involving any single offense for
10 any speed of fifteen (15) miles per hour or more above the posted speed
11 limit;

12 (B) Reckless driving as defined by state or local law or
13 regulation, including, but not limited to, offenses of driving a commercial
14 motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or
15 property;

16 (C) Improper or erratic traffic lane changes;

17 (D) Following the vehicle ahead too closely;

18 (E)(i) A violation, arising in connection with a fatal
19 accident, of state or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control,
20 other than a parking violation.

21 (ii) Serious traffic violations shall not include
22 weight or defect violations;

23 (F) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without obtaining a
24 commercial driver license;

25 (G)(1) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a
26 commercial driver license in the driver's possession.

27 (2) Any individual who by the date the individual must appear in
28 court or pay any fine for such a violation provides proof to the enforcement
29 authority that issued the citation that the individual held a valid
30 commercial driver license on the date the citation was issued shall not be
31 guilty of this offense; or

32 (H) Driving a commercial vehicle without the proper class
33 of commercial driver license or endorsements for the specific vehicle group
34 being operated or for the passengers or type of cargo being transported;

35 ~~(28)~~(29) "State" means a state of the United States and also
36 means the District of Columbia; ~~and~~

1 (30) "Tank vehicle" means any commercial motor vehicle equipped
 2 with a tank designed to hold liquid or gaseous materials with a capacity of
 3 one thousand gallons (1,000 gals.) or more; and

4 ~~(29)~~(31) "United States" means the fifty (50) states and the
 5 District of Columbia.

6
 7 SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 27-16-603(4), relating to commercial
 8 drivers exempt from obtaining an Arkansas driver license, is amended to read
 9 as follows:

10 (4) A nonresident who is at least eighteen (18) years of age and
 11 who has in his immediate possession a valid commercial driver's license
 12 issued to him by his home state or country may operate a motor vehicle in
 13 this state ~~either as a commercial or a noncommercial driver~~ or may operate a
 14 commercial motor vehicle as provided by § 27-23-123; and

15
 16 SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 27-16-903, relating to authority to cancel
 17 or revoke driver's licenses, is amended to add an additional subsection to
 18 read as follows:

19 (c) The Office of Driver Services shall not grant an application for a
 20 new license to any driver if the driver's previous license was cancelled,
 21 suspended, or revoked as a result of a determination that the applicant
 22 committed any fraud in making the application until the expiration of one (1)
 23 year after the cancellation, suspension, or revocation.