

1 State of Arkansas
2 94th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2023
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1548

5 By: Representative M. McElroy
6 By: Senator D. Wallace
7

For An Act To Be Entitled

9 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PERIOD OF TIME
10 CERTAIN DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO
11 WAIT TO COMPLETE THE DRIVER'S EXAMINATION; TO DECLARE
12 AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
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Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PERIOD OF
16 TIME CERTAIN DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS
17 ARE REQUIRED TO WAIT TO COMPLETE THE
18 DRIVER'S EXAMINATION; AND TO DECLARE AN
19 EMERGENCY.
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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-16-704(c)(1), concerning the examination
26 requirements for driver's license applicants, is amended to read as follows:

27 (c)(1) ~~No~~ An applicant for an original license, that is, an applicant
28 who has never been licensed previously by any jurisdiction, shall not be
29 permitted to demonstrate ability to operate a motor vehicle as required under
30 the provisions of this chapter unless and until the applicant has in his or
31 her possession a valid instruction permit properly issued ~~not less than~~
32 ~~thirty (30) days~~ prior to the date of application, unless otherwise
33 determined by the Office of Driver Services.
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35 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 27-23-110(f), concerning the application
36 for a commercial driver license, is amended to read as follows:



1 (f) If the Office of Driver Services issues a commercial learner's
 2 permit to an applicant, the applicant may take the commercial driver license
 3 skills test ~~no earlier than fourteen (14) calendar days~~ following the date of
 4 issuance of the commercial learner's permit.

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 6 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
 7 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that agriculture makes up
 8 approximately one-third (1/3) of the state's gross domestic product; that the
 9 State of Arkansas is experiencing labor shortages in all industries but
 10 specifically in transportation and agriculture; that the waiting periods
 11 required by law for a driver's license applicant to complete the driver's
 12 examination are arbitrary time periods that serve no specific purpose; that
 13 the agricultural planting season begins later this month and the agricultural
 14 labor force is in need of licensed drivers; and that migrant workers arriving
 15 in Arkansas to join the agricultural labor force need to be able to drive in
 16 order to provide their labor services as quickly as possible. Therefore, an
 17 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for
 18 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become
 19 effective on:

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

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

24 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is
 25 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.