



# Maryland Motor Truck Association

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**HEARING DATE:** March 10, 2022

**BILL NO/TITLE:** House Bill 1303: Motor Vehicles - Emergency Commercial Driver's Licenses - Establishment

**COMMITTEE:** House Environment & Transportation Committee

**POSITION:** Support

Maryland Motor Truck Association offers its support for HB1303, which would create an expedited path for the emergency issuance of short-term commercial drivers' licenses to former CDL holders during a state of emergency.

The trucking industry is suffering from a massive labor shortage of drivers. National data from the American Trucking Associations indicates the current shortfall is over 80,000 drivers. Projections indicate that shortage will reach 100,000 by 2023. A recent survey of 22 companies on MMTA's Board of Directors indicated an average need for 30 drivers per company.

As witnessed at the onset of the pandemic, when supply chains are disrupted, shortages of goods are quick to follow. Trucks are the hub of Maryland's distribution wheel, playing a vital role in support of the state's manufacturing, agricultural, grocery and retail industries. Over 92 percent of Maryland's communities are served exclusively by truck, meaning that is the only way they get their goods. Without the trucking industry's drivers, there is no food on the grocery shelves, there are no medical supplies in hospitals, and there are no vaccines in pharmacies. Now more than ever, the resilience and integrity of our supply chain needs to be protected.

HB1303 only applies to intrastate driving. Drivers may only operate vehicles they were previously qualified for, and they must be medically certified in accordance with state and federal law. Issued licenses are short term in duration, applying only during a state of emergency and expiring within six months after the emergency ends. These limitations are designed to ensure safety, while also providing potentially meaningful benefits to certain industry segments (local delivery, construction, school bus, agricultural) that rely on local CDL drivers to meet demand.

For the reasons noted above, MMTA asks for a favorable report.

**About Maryland Motor Truck Association:** Maryland Motor Truck Association is a not-for-profit trade association representing the trucking industry since 1935. In service to its 1,000+ members, MMTA is committed to supporting and advocating for a safe, efficient and profitable trucking industry across all sectors and industry types, regardless of size, domicile or type of operation.

**For further information, contact:** Louis Campion, (c) 443-623-4223