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MARYLAND ASPHALT ASSOCIATION



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February 22, 2023

Senator Will Smith, Chair
Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Senate Bill 709 – FAVORABLE – Motor Vehicles - Commercial Driver's Licenses and Instructional Permits - Revisions

Dear Chair Smith and Members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee:

The Maryland Asphalt Association (MAA) is comprised of 19 producer members representing more than 48 production facilities, 25 contractor members, 25 consulting engineer firms and 41 other associate members. MAA works proactively with regulatory agencies to represent the interests of the asphalt industry both in the writing and interpretation of state and federal regulations that may affect our members. We also advocate for adequate state and federal funding for Maryland's multimodal transportation system.

Senate Bill 709 extends the term of a commercial driver's instructional permit from 180 days to one year and exempts a holder of a commercial driver's license (CDL) who applies for renewal from the requirement to pass a vision test if the individual has a current certificate of physical examination on file with the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA).

MAA supports Senate Bill 709 because we understand the importance of making sure our drivers are fully trained on the vehicles they'll be operating. While someone may have years or even decades of experience driving a personal vehicle, large commercial vehicles require drivers to master a whole new set of skills. By doubling the amount of time drivers are allowed on their commercial driver's instruction permit, this bill will improve safety on Maryland roadways. In addition, although we understand that it is only being done to conform to new federal regulations, MAA also supports the vision test exemption provision because the existing requirement is unnecessarily duplicative and takes our drivers off the road, costing them time and money.

We appreciate you taking the time to consider our request for a FAVORABLE report on Senate Bill 709.

Sincerely,

Marshall Klinefelter
President
Maryland Asphalt Association