

**Written Testimony in Support of SB0856 / HB1338  
Before the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee  
March 4, 2026**

Submitted by:  
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Chair Smith, Vice Chair Waldstreicher, and Member of the Committee:

Blue Heron Transportation is a Maryland-based transportation company providing commercial driving and logistics services across the region. Our organization employs drivers in positions that require entry into Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training programs and long-term careers in the transportation sector.

Like many employers in this industry, we are experiencing a significant shortage of qualified CDL drivers. Maryland's provisional licensing requirement directly delays otherwise qualified adults from entering CDL training pipelines.

Individuals seeking to begin a career in commercial driving must first hold a full, unrestricted driver's license. As a result, adults who are otherwise ready and motivated to pursue CDL careers are delayed for up to 18 months solely due to provisional license status — not due to safety, performance, or qualifications.

This delay restricts the pipeline of new drivers entering the industry and exacerbates existing labor shortages in transportation and logistics.

SB0856 / HB1338 would remove this unnecessary barrier for adults while maintaining all safety standards. Individuals would still be required to meet all education, testing, and enforcement requirements. The bill simply allows adults to move forward once those requirements are met.

From an employer perspective, this change would strengthen the workforce pipeline, improve access to training programs, and support Maryland's transportation infrastructure. We fully support rigorous commercial licensing and safety standards.

We respectfully urge the Committee to issue a favorable report on SB0856 / HB1338.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Bird  
Operations Manager