

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 89

Senator Barrett offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to urge the federal government to allow persons
2 under the age of 21 to operate commercial vehicles on interstate
3 routes.

4 Whereas, In most states, including Michigan, drivers 18 years
5 and older may obtain a commercial driver's license (CDL) to
6 operate commercial vehicles within state lines. However, federal
7 regulations prohibit persons under the age of 21 from operating a
8 commercial motor vehicle across state lines; and

9 Whereas, Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, trucking
10 companies have lost between 5% to 15% of their drivers. Age
11 restrictions on interstate trucking has made it more difficult to
12 replace outgoing drivers exasperating an already tight labor
13 market; and

1 Whereas, The Developing Responsible Individuals for a Vibrant
2 Economy Act (DRIVE Safe Act) has been introduced in the United
3 States Senate to address the shortage of truck drivers across the
4 country. Introduced in March 2021, the DRIVE Safe Act would direct
5 the U.S. Department of Transportation to create regulations to
6 implement an apprenticeship program for licensed commercial motor
7 vehicle drivers under the age of 21; require apprentice drivers to
8 complete at least 400 hours of on-duty time and 240 hours of
9 driving time with an experienced driver; and require all commercial
10 motor vehicles used in the apprenticeship program to be equipped
11 with safety technology. This legislation would ensure that
12 individuals between the ages of 18 and 21, many of whom are already
13 licensed and driving in their resident states, are trained and
14 available to address the truck driver shortage. Further, the act
15 will create additional career opportunities for young adults at the
16 time they are entering the workforce; now, therefore, be it

17 Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the federal government to
18 allow persons under the age of 21 to operate commercial trucks on
19 interstate routes; and be it further

20 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
21 President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States
22 House of Representatives, the President of the United States
23 Senate, and members of the Michigan congressional delegation.