Summary of Legislation

This bill decreases the age to obtain a commercial driver license from 21 to 18 if authorized under federal law.

Background

Under current state and federal law, a driver must be at least 21 years old to operate an interstate commercial vehicle. However, a driver may operate a commercial vehicle at 18 years old if he or she has a general or minor driver license of the correct type and only drives within the state borders.

In addition, under existing federal requirements, each state must maintain minimum standards for the licensing of commercial vehicles.

State Expenditures

Conditional upon federal action, this bill will increase workload in the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Revenue to engage in any required rulemaking. The Department of Revenue will also be required to update forms, manuals, and the department’s website to reflect the change in law, as well as provide training to authorized agents, Title and Registration Section staff, and law enforcement. Any workload increases or costs associated with these activities can be accomplished within existing appropriations.
Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 2, 2019, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 3, 2019, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed. It applies to any offenses committed on or after the effective date.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties  Revenue  Public Safety  Transportation