



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 Transportation Builders and Materials Association (MTBMA) has been and continues to serve as the voice for Maryland's construction transportation industry since 1932. Our association is comprised of 200 members. MTBMA encourages, develops, and protects the prestige of the transportation construction and materials industry in Maryland by establishing and maintaining respected relationships with federal, state, and local public officials. We proactively work with regulatory agencies and governing bodies to represent the interests of the transportation industry and 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).

MTBMA 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, MTBMA 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.

Thank you,

Michael Sakata
President and CEO
Maryland Transportation Builders and Materials Association