

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Bill 18-325, "Commercial Driver's License Minimum Age Requirement Amendment Act of 2009"



**Testimony of
Lucinda Babers, Director
Department of Motor Vehicles**

**Before the
Committee on Public Works and Transportation
The Honorable Jim Graham, Chairperson**

**Thursday, December 10, 2009
1:00 pm – Room 412
John A. Wilson Building
Washington, DC**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Graham, members of the Committee and Council, and your staff. My name is Lucinda Babers, and I am the Director of the District's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Today, I am here to provide the Administration's perspective on Bill 18-325, "Commercial Driver's License Minimum Age Requirement Amendment Act of 2009."

In regards to the Bill, it would require DMV to issue a commercial driver's license to a person who is at least 18 years of age and has at least 2 years driving experience; provided, that a commercial driver's license (CDL) issued to a person who is less than 21 years of age shall not be valid for commercial interstate operation in accordance with the minimum federal standards, operation of a school bus, or transportation of hazardous material. Due to the restrictions included, the pool of individuals who would qualify to receive the CDL at an age of at least 18 would be extremely small since most intrastate CDL driving in the District would ultimately require a person to use alternate truck routes which would take the person through Maryland or Virginia. However, since federal law prohibits interstate CDL driving for anyone under 21 years of age, we believe passing this Bill would unknowingly encourage people to violate the law because of the interstate operation constraint.

Therefore, if the Bill were to pass, we recommend it include a penalties section to address DC operators and companies who fail to adhere to the federal requirement of only interstate operations. If this is the case, DMV would work closely with the Council and the Metropolitan Police Department on the penalties and enforcement.

This concludes my testimony. I am available to respond to any questions. Thank you.

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