

Senate Bill 203

By: Senators Anavitarte of the 31st, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st, Robertson of the 29th, Dolezal of the 27th and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to industry services training program, so as to provide for tuition-free programs that
3 relate to the operation of a commercial motor vehicle for veterans; to amend Title 40 of the
4 Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, so as to repeal
5 provisions authorizing joinder of motor carriers and their insurance carriers in tort and
6 contract causes of action; to provide for standards of service hours for motor carriers
7 operating solely intrastate; to provide for hiring standards for commercial driver's license
8 holders; to provide a short title; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and
9 for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 **SECTION 1.**

12 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Trucking Opportunity Act of 2023."

SECTION 2.

13

14 Article 3 of Chapter 4 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
15 industry services training program, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as
16 follows:

17 "20-4-43.1.

18 Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly for such purposes, the training
19 programs under this article entered into by a qualified participant that relate to the
20 operation of a commercial motor vehicle shall be tuition free. For purposes of this Code
21 section, a qualified participant shall be a veteran of the United States armed forces who was
22 honorably discharged as evidenced by United States Department of Defense Form 214 or
23 National Guard Bureau Form 22."

SECTION 3.

24

25 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic,
26 is amended in Code Section 40-1-112, relating to insurance of motor carriers, by revising
27 subsection (c) as follows:

28 ~~"(c) It shall be permissible under this part for any person having a cause of action arising~~
29 ~~under this part to join in the same action the motor carrier and the insurance carrier,~~
30 ~~whether arising in tort or contract."~~

SECTION 4.

31

32 Said title is further amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

33 "40-1-122.1.

34 Any motor carrier engaged in solely intrastate commerce shall be authorized to:

35 (1) Drive such motor vehicle for 12 hours, provided that he or she has not been on duty
36 for more than 16 hours; and

37 (2) Provide 70 hours of service in seven consecutive days or 80 hours of service in eight
38 consecutive days."

39 **SECTION 5.**

40 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-2-140, relating to Department of Public
41 Safety to administer provisions and registration, insurance, and fee requirements of motor
42 carriers, by revising paragraph (4) of subsection (d) as follows:

43 ~~"(4) Any person having a cause of action, whether arising in tort or contract, under this~~
44 ~~Code section may join in the same cause of action the motor carrier and its insurance~~
45 ~~carrier."~~

46 **SECTION 6.**

47 Said title is further amended in Code Section 40-5-145, relating to duties of employer, by
48 adding a new subsection to read as follows:

49 "(c) Any person issued a commercial driver's license pursuant to this article and in
50 accordance with minimum federal standards shall be considered to possess the necessary
51 qualifications to be hired and entrusted to operate a commercial motor vehicle, provided
52 that such driving privilege has not been suspended, revoked, canceled, or subject to
53 disqualification."

54 **SECTION 7.**

55 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.