

The House Committee on Defense and Veterans Affairs offers the following substitute to SB 203:

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 provide
5 for hiring standards for commercial driver's license holders; to provide a short title; to
6 provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Trucking Opportunity Act of 2024."

10 **SECTION 2.**

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

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14 "20-4-43.1.
15 Subject to appropriations by the General Assembly for such purposes, the training
16 programs under this article entered into by a qualified participant that relate to the
17 operation of a commercial motor vehicle shall be tuition free. For purposes of this Code
18 section, a qualified participant shall be a veteran of the United States armed forces who was
19 honorably discharged as evidenced by United States Department of Defense Form 214 or
20 National Guard Bureau Form 22."

21 **SECTION 3.**

22 Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to motor vehicles and traffic, is
23 amended in Code Section 40-5-145, relating to duties of employer, by adding a new
24 subsection to read as follows:

25 "(c) Any person issued a commercial driver's license pursuant to this article and in
26 accordance with minimum federal standards shall be considered to possess the necessary
27 qualifications to be hired and entrusted to operate a commercial motor vehicle, when:

28 (1) Such driving privilege has not been suspended, revoked, or canceled or such driving
29 privilege is not subject to disqualification; and

30 (2) The employer conducted a preemployment investigation of such driver's record in
31 accordance with the time frame required by federal minimum standards or three years,
32 whichever is greater."

33 **SECTION 4.**

34 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.