

Amendment - 2nd Reading-yellow - Requested by: George Nikolakakos - (H) Committee of the Whole

- 2025

69th Legislature 2025

Drafter: Casey Pallister,

HB0708.001.001

HOUSE BILL NO. 708

INTRODUCED BY G. NIKOLAKAKOS, B. BARKER

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ALLOWING ALL PERSONS SERVING IN A RESERVE COMPONENT TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR CERTAIN COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE WAIVERS; AND AMENDING SECTION 61-5-123, MCA."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 61-5-123, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-5-123. Waiver of skills test or knowledge test related to military commercial motor vehicles experience -- definition. (1) As used in this section, "current or former military service member" means a person:

- (a) honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States;
- (b) currently serving in the armed forces of the United States;
- (c) serving ~~full-time~~ in a reserve component, as defined in 37-1-138; or
- (d) honorably discharged from the reserve component after serving ~~full-time~~ in the reserve component.

(2) The department may waive the skills test, knowledge test, or both, required for a commercial driver's license if an applicant is a current or former military service member and meets the conditions in subsection (3), (4), or (5).

(3) A current or former military service member applying for waiver of the skills test shall:

- (a) certify and provide evidence that the member:
 - (i) is or was regularly employed within the last year in a military position requiring operation of a commercial motor vehicle;
 - (ii) was exempted from the commercial driver's license requirements in 61-8-803; and
 - (iii) was operating, for at least 2 years immediately preceding separation from the military, a vehicle

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1 representative of the commercial motor vehicle type the driver applicant operates or expects to operate; and

2 (b) certify that during the 2-year period immediately prior to applying for a commercial driver's
3 license, the member:

4 (i) has not simultaneously held more than one civilian license;

5 (ii) has not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;

6 (iii) has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses
7 contained in 61-8-802;

8 (iv) has not had any convictions for a violation of federal, military, state, or local law relating to
9 motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, arising in connection with any traffic accident; and

10 (v) has no record of an accident in which the current or former military service member was at
11 fault.

12 (4) A current or former military service member applying for waiver of the knowledge test shall
13 certify and provide evidence that during the 1-year period immediately prior to the application, the member:

14 (a) is or was regularly employed and designated as a:

15 (i) motor transport operator--88M (Army);

16 (ii) PATRIOT launching station operator--14T (Army);

17 (iii) fueler--92F (Army);

18 (iv) vehicle operator--2T1 (Air Force);

19 (v) fueler--2F0 (Air Force);

20 (vi) pavement and construction equipment operator--3E2 (Air Force);

21 (vii) motor vehicle operator--3531 (Marine Corps); or

22 (viii) equipment operator--E.O. (Navy);

23 (b) is operating a vehicle representative of the commercial motor vehicle type the driver applicant
24 expects to operate on separation from the military or operated a similar vehicle type immediately preceding
25 separation from the military;

26 (c) has not simultaneously held more than one civilian license;

27 (d) has not had any license suspended, revoked, or cancelled;

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(e) has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses contained in 61-8-802;

(f) has not had more than one conviction for any type of motor vehicle for serious traffic violations contained in 61-8-803;

(g) has not had any convictions for a violation of federal, military, state, or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, arising in connection with any traffic accident; and

(h) has no record of an accident in which the current or former military service member was at fault.

(5) A current or former military service member applying for waiver of the applicable skills and knowledge tests for a passenger, tank vehicle, or hazardous materials endorsement shall certify and provide evidence that during the 1-year period immediately prior to the application, the member:

(a) is or was regularly employed in a military position requiring:

(i) operation of a passenger commercial motor vehicle if requesting waiver of the skills and knowledge test for a passenger endorsement;

(ii) operation of a tank vehicle if requesting waiver of the skills and knowledge test for a tank vehicle endorsement; or

(iii) transportation of hazardous materials if requesting waiver of the skills and knowledge test for a hazardous materials endorsement;

(b) has not simultaneously held more than one civilian license;

(c) has not had any convictions for any type of motor vehicle for the disqualifying offenses contained in 61-8-802;

(d) has not had more than one conviction for any type of motor vehicle for serious traffic violations contained in 61-8-803;

(e) has not had any convictions for a violation of federal, military, state, or local law relating to motor vehicle traffic control, other than a parking violation, arising in connection with any traffic accident; and

(f) has no record of an accident in which the current or former military service member was at fault."

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