

SEC. 5404. COMMERCIAL DRIVER PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program under section 31315(c) of title 49, United States Code, to study the feasibility, benefits, and safety impacts of allowing a covered driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce.

(b) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall collect and analyze data relating to accidents in which—

(1) a covered driver participating in the pilot program is involved; and

(2) a driver under the age of 21 operating a commercial motor vehicle in intrastate commerce is involved.

(c) LIMITATIONS.—A driver participating in the pilot program may not—

(1) transport—

(A) passengers; or

(B) hazardous cargo; or

(2) operate a vehicle in special configuration.

(d) WORKING GROUP.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall conduct, monitor, and evaluate the pilot program in consultation with a working group to be established by the Secretary consisting of representatives of the armed forces, industry, drivers, safety advocacy organizations, and State licensing and enforcement officials.

(2) DUTIES.—The working group shall review the data collected under subsection (b) and provide recommendations to the Secretary on the feasibility, benefits, and safety impacts of allowing a covered driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the pilot program is concluded, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report describing the findings of the pilot program and the recommendations of the working group.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ACCIDENT.—The term “accident” has the meaning given that term in section 390.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) ARMED FORCES.—The term “armed forces” has the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE.—The term “commercial motor vehicle” has the meaning given that term in section 31301 of title 49, United States Code.

(4) COVERED DRIVER.—The term “covered driver” means an individual who is—

(A) between the ages of 18 and 21;

(B) a member or former member of the—

(i) armed forces; or H. R. 22—239

(ii) reserve components (as defined in section 31305(d)(2) of title 49, United States Code, as added by this Act); and

(C) qualified in a Military Occupational Specialty to operate a commercial motor vehicle or similar vehicle.