

House Transportation and Public Safety Committee
February 28, 2018
Proponent Testimony: SB 170

Chairman Green, Vice Chair Patton, Ranking Member Sheehy, and members of the House Transportation and Public Safety Committee, my name is Ed Nagle and I am president of Nagle Companies in Walbridge, Ohio. I am here today providing proponent testimony on SB 170. Nagle Companies was founded in 1984 and we employ more than 80 people in the trucking, distribution, and warehousing industry. I am also a trustee for the Ohio Trucking Association.

The shortage of drivers in the trucking industry has reached epic proportions. According to the American Trucking Association, the current truck driver shortage is at 50,000 drivers, if this course continues, the shortage will reach 250,000 drivers by 2025.

Ohio's military veterans with experience operating heavy duty vehicles are great candidates for these high-paying jobs. Currently, a veteran is exempt from taking the skills test for a commercial driver's license (CDL) if he or she had experience operating heavy duty vehicles in the military for two years prior to being discharged. This requirement that the driving experience take place during the immediate two years prior to being discharged is called the immediacy rule, and we believe is too restrictive and more can be done ease the transition into a civilian CDL.

Under SB 170, the Director of the Ohio Department of Public Safety would seek approval from the United States Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration to implement a temporary pilot program, which would waive the skills test for a CDL for military personnel who, for at least two years during their time of service with the military, operated a vehicle equivalent to a commercial vehicle they would operate as a civilian.

This legislation will not only streamline the process of obtaining a CDL for our brave men and women serving our country, but would also help address the driver shortage problem facing countless businesses throughout the state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify. I urge your support for SB 170 and would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully,

Edwin J. Nagle III