



2023-2024 General Assembly

# SENATE BILL 607: Regulatory Reform Act of 2024, Sec. 19: Clarify Minimum Age for Escort Vehicle Drivers, Allow Third Party Training and Certification, and Create Additional Requirements for Escort Vehicles

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<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	August 23, 2024
<b>Introduced by:</b>	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Wendy Ray
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Sec. 19 of S.L. 2024-45	Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** Section 19 of S.L. 2024-45 makes changes to the Department of Transportation (DOT) training and certification program for drivers of escort vehicles that accompany permitted oversize/overweight loads.

*This section became effective July 9, 2024.*

**CURRENT LAW:** The DOT is required by statute to issue rules regulating escort vehicles that accompany vehicles carrying permitted oversize/overweight loads. Drivers operating escort vehicles must meet training and certification requirements in accordance with those rules. The DOT has created a certification program that includes application standards and training requirements.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** Section 19 of S.L. 2024-45 amends statutory requirements for the DOT escort vehicle training and certification program by:

- Providing that the minimum age to obtain an escort vehicle certification cannot be greater than 18 years and prohibiting a requirement that an escort vehicle driver have a commercial drivers license.
- Requiring that a person with a Class A commercial drivers license must be allowed to take an escort vehicle certification examination without completing additional education or training.
- Requiring the DOT to allow third parties to train and certify escort drivers pursuant to DOT rules.
- Establishing certain size, lighting, and operation requirements for escort vehicles.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This section became effective July 9, 2024.

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