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**HOUSE BILL NO. 505**

Offered January 10, 2024

Prefiled January 8, 2024

*A BILL to direct the Department of Motor Vehicles to convene a work group to develop and implement a statewide strategy to incentivize and promote the issuance of commercial driver's licenses to qualified applicants in the Commonwealth.*

Patron—Cohen

Referred to Committee on Rules

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

*1. § 1. The Department of Motor Vehicles (the Department) shall convene a work group to develop and implement a statewide strategy to incentivize and promote the issuance of commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) to qualified applicants in the Commonwealth. The Department shall solicit participation in such work group from relevant stakeholders, including representatives of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Veterans Services, the Department of State Police, the Virginia Trucking Association, the Virginia Education Association, the Virginia Community Colleges Association, the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging, and Travel Association, the Virginia Association of School Superintendents, the Virginia School Boards Association, and businesses that employ commercial vehicle drivers, such as Amazon, FedEx, and UPS. Such work group shall identify barriers to CDL licensure and develop strategies and programs to reduce or remove such barriers while still upholding the high public safety standards of commercial vehicle drivers. Such work group shall consider, at a minimum, (i) increasing the number of training centers, (ii) increasing the number of Department testing sites, (iii) expanding the Troops to Trucks program and the eligibility criteria therefor, (iv) providing financial incentives, and (v) expanding partnerships with community colleges. The work group shall issue a report of its findings and recommendations to the Chairs of the House and Senate Committees on Transportation no later than November 30, 2024.*