

eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (B), the words before subclause (i) are substituted for “for refusing to operate a vehicle when” and “or because of” for clarity and consistency. In subclause (ii), the words “vehicle’s unsafe condition” are substituted for “unsafe condition of such equipment” for consistency.

Subsection (a)(2) is substituted for 49 App.:2305(b) (2d, last sentences) for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (b)(1), the words “alleging such discharge, discipline, or discrimination” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b)(2)(B), the words “Not later than 30 days after the notice under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph” are substituted for “Thereafter” and “within thirty days” for clarity.

In subsection (b)(2)(C), the words “Before the final order is issued” are substituted for “In the interim” for clarity.

Subsection (b)(3)(A) is substituted for 49 App.:2305(c)(2)(B) (1st sentence) for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. In clause (ii), the word “conditions” is omitted as included in “terms”. The provision for back pay is moved from clause (ii) to clause (iii) for clarity.

In subsection (b)(3)(B), the words “a sum equal to the aggregate amount of all” and “and expenses” are omitted as surplus. The words “in bringing the complaint” are substituted for “for, or in connection with, the bringing of the complaint upon which the order was issued” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (c), the words “or aggrieved” and “with respect to which the order was issued, allegedly” are omitted as surplus. The words “in accordance with the provisions of chapter 7 of title 5 and” are omitted because 5 ch. 7 applies unless otherwise stated.

In subsection (d), the text of 49 App.:2305(e) (last sentence) is omitted as unnecessary.

AMENDMENTS

2007—Pub. L. 110-53 amended text of section generally. Prior to amendment, section related to, in subsec. (a), prohibition against discharge or discipline of, or discrimination against, an employee regarding pay, terms, or privileges of employment for certain actions, in subsec. (b), procedures for filing of complaint, in subsec. (c), judicial review and venue, and, in subsec. (d), civil action to enforce an order.

EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS

Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, § 4023, June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 415, provided that: “Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act [June 9, 1998], the Secretary [of Transportation], in conjunction with the Secretary of Labor, shall report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the effectiveness of existing statutory employee protections provided for under section 31105 of title 49, United States Code. The report shall include recommendations to address any statutory changes necessary to strengthen the enforcement of such employee protection provisions.”

§ 31106. Information systems

(a) INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND DATA ANALYSIS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall establish and operate motor carrier, commercial motor vehicle, and driver information systems and data analysis programs to support safety regulatory and enforcement activities required under this title.

(2) NETWORK COORDINATION.—In cooperation with the States, the information systems

under this section shall be coordinated into a network providing accurate identification of motor carriers and drivers, commercial motor vehicle registration and license tracking, and motor carrier, commercial motor vehicle, and driver safety performance data.

(3) DATA ANALYSIS CAPACITY AND PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall develop and maintain under this section data analysis capacity and programs that provide the means to—

(A) identify and collect necessary motor carrier, commercial motor vehicle, and driver data;

(B) evaluate the safety fitness of motor carriers and drivers;

(C) develop strategies to mitigate safety problems and to use data analysis to address and measure the effectiveness of such strategies and related programs;

(D) determine the cost-effectiveness of Federal and State safety compliance and enforcement programs and other countermeasures;

(E) adapt, improve, and incorporate other information and information systems as the Secretary determines appropriate;

(F) ensure, to the maximum extent practical, all the data is complete, timely, and accurate across all information systems and initiatives;

(G) establish and implement a national motor carrier safety data correction system; and

(H) determine whether a person or employer is or was related, through common ownership, common management, common control, or common familial relationship, to any other person, employer, or any other applicant for registration under section 13902 or 31134.

(4) STANDARDS.—To implement this section, the Secretary shall prescribe technical and operational standards to ensure—

(A) uniform, timely, and accurate information collection and reporting by the States and other entities as determined appropriate by the Secretary;

(B) uniform Federal, State, and local policies and procedures necessary to operate the information system; and

(C) the reliability and availability of the information to the Secretary and States.

(b) PERFORMANCE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT.—

(1) INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.—The Secretary shall include, as part of the motor carrier information system authorized by this section, a program to establish and maintain a clearinghouse and repository of information related to State registration and licensing of commercial motor vehicles, the registrants of such vehicles, and the motor carriers operating such vehicles. The clearinghouse and repository may include information on the safety fitness of each of the motor carriers and registrants and other information the Secretary considers appropriate, including information on motor carrier, commercial motor vehicle, and driver safety performance.

(2) DESIGN.—The program shall link Federal motor carrier safety information systems with State commercial vehicle registration and licensing systems and shall be designed to enable a State to—

(A) determine the safety fitness of a motor carrier or registrant when licensing or registering the registrant or motor carrier or while the license or registration is in effect; and

(B) deny, suspend, or revoke the commercial motor vehicle registrations of a motor carrier or registrant that has been issued an operations out-of-service order by the Secretary.

(3) CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION.—The Secretary shall require States, as a condition of participation in the program, to—

(A) comply with the uniform policies, procedures, and technical and operational standards prescribed by the Secretary under subsection (a)(4);

(B) possess or seek the authority to possess for a time period no longer than determined reasonable by the Secretary, to impose sanctions relating to commercial motor vehicle registration on the basis of a Federal safety fitness determination; and

(C) establish and implement a process—

(i) to cancel the motor vehicle registration and seize the registration plates of a vehicle when an employer is found liable under section 31310(i)(2)(C) for knowingly allowing or requiring an employee to operate such a commercial motor vehicle in violation of an out-of-service order; and

(ii) to reinstate the vehicle registration or return the registration plates of the commercial motor vehicle, subject to sanctions under clause (i), if the Secretary permits such carrier to resume operations after the date of issuance of such order.

(c)(1) IN GENERAL.—In coordination with the information system under section 31309, the Secretary is authorized to establish a program to improve commercial motor vehicle driver safety. The objectives of the program shall include—

(A) enhancing the exchange of driver licensing information among the States, the Federal Government, and foreign countries;

(B) providing information to the judicial system on commercial motor vehicle drivers;

(C) evaluating any aspect of driver performance that the Secretary determines appropriate; and

(D) developing appropriate strategies and countermeasures to improve driver safety.

(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS.—The Secretary may require a State, as a condition of an award of grant money under this section, to provide the Secretary access to all State licensing status and driver history records via an electronic information system, subject to section 2721 of title 18.

(d) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, GRANTS, AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may carry out this section either independently or in cooperation with other Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities, or by making grants to, and entering into contracts and cooperative agree-

ments with, States, local governments, associations, institutions, corporations, and other persons.

(e)(1) INFORMATION AVAILABILITY AND PRIVACY PROTECTION POLICY.—The Secretary shall develop a policy on making information available from the information systems authorized by this section and section 31309. The policy shall be consistent with existing Federal information laws, including regulations, and shall provide for review and correction of such information in a timely manner.

(2) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any prohibition on disclosure of information in section 31105(h) or 31143(b) of this title or section 552a of title 5, the Secretary may disclose information maintained by the Secretary pursuant to chapters 51, 135, 311, or 313 of this title to appropriate personnel of a State agency or instrumentality authorized to carry out State commercial motor vehicle safety activities and commercial driver's license laws, or appropriate personnel of a local law enforcement agency, in accordance with standards, conditions, and procedures as determined by the Secretary. Disclosure under this section shall not operate as a waiver by the Secretary of any applicable privilege against disclosure under common law or as a basis for compelling disclosure under section 552 of title 5.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 991; Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, §4004(a), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 398; Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, §§4108(a), 4109(a), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1720; Pub. L. 112-141, div. C, title II, §§32103(b), 32306, 32508, 32602, July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 780, 793, 805, 807; Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title V, §§5101(e)(2), 5102, Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1525, 1526.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
31106(a)	49 App.:2306(f).	Jan. 6, 1983, Pub. L. 97-424, 96 Stat. 2155, §407; added Dec. 18, 1991, Pub. L. 102-240, §4003, 105 Stat. 2144.
31106(b)	49 App.:2306(a) (2)-(5).	
31106(c)	49 App.:2306(b).	
31106(d)	49 App.:2306(a)(1).	
31106(e)	49 App.:2306(c).	
31106(f)	49 App.:2306(d).	
31106(g)	49 App.:2306(e).	

In subsection (b)(2), the word “schedule” is substituted for “system” for clarity.

AMENDMENTS

2015—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 114-94, §5102, substituted “Systems Management” for “Program” in heading.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 114-94, §5101(e)(2), struck out par. (4). Text read as follows: “From the funds authorized by section 31104(i), the Secretary may make a grant in a fiscal year to a State to implement the performance and registration information system management requirements of this subsection.”

2012—Subsec. (a)(3)(H). Pub. L. 112-141, §32103(b), added subpar. (H).

Subsec. (b)(3)(C). Pub. L. 112-141, §32602, amended subpar. (C) generally. Prior to amendment, subpar. (C) read as follows: “establish and implement a process to cancel the motor vehicle registration and seize the registration plates of a vehicle when an employer is found liable under section 31310(i)(2)(C) for knowingly allowing or requiring an employee to operate such a commercial motor vehicle in violation of an out-of-service order.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 112-141, § 32306, struck out subsec. heading “COMMERCIAL MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER SAFETY PROGRAM”, designated existing provisions as par. (1) and inserted par. heading, redesignated former pars. (1) to (4) as subpars. (A) to (D), respectively, of par. (1), and added par. (2).

Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 112-141, § 32508, designated existing provisions as par. (1) and added par. (2).

2005—Subsec. (a)(3)(F), (G). Pub. L. 109-59, § 4108(a), added subpars. (F) and (G).

Subsec. (b)(2) to (4). Pub. L. 109-59, § 4109(a), added pars. (2) to (4) and struck out former pars. (2) to (4), which related to design of program with State licensing systems in par. (2), conditions of participation in par. (3), and funding for fiscal years 1998 to 2003 in par. (4).

1998—Pub. L. 105-178 amended section catchline and text generally, substituting, in subsec. (a), provisions relating to information systems and data analysis for provisions relating to definition of commercial motor vehicle, in subsec. (b), provisions relating to performance and registration information program for provisions relating to information system, in subsec. (c), provisions relating to commercial motor vehicle driver safety program for provisions relating to demonstration project, in subsec. (d), provisions relating to cooperative agreements, grants, and contracts for provisions relating to review of State systems, and in subsec. (e), provisions relating to information availability and privacy protection policy for provisions relating to regulations, and striking out subsecs. (f) and (g), which related to report to Congress and authorization of appropriations, respectively.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2015 AMENDMENT

Amendment by section 5102 of Pub. L. 114-94 effective Oct. 1, 2015, see section 1003 of Pub. L. 114-94, set out as a note under section 5313 of Title 5, Government Organization and Employees.

Amendment by section 5101(e)(2) of Pub. L. 114-94 effective Oct. 1, 2016, see section 5101(f) of Pub. L. 114-94, set out as a note under section 31102 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2012 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 112-141 effective Oct. 1, 2012, see section 3(a) of Pub. L. 112-141, set out as an Effective and Termination Dates of 2012 Amendment note under section 101 of Title 23, Highways.

DEEMED REFERENCES TO CHAPTERS 509 AND 511 OF TITLE 51

General references to “this title” deemed to refer also to chapters 509 and 511 of Title 51, National and Commercial Space Programs, see section 4(d)(8) of Pub. L. 111-314, set out as a note under section 101 of this title.

COMMERCIAL VEHICLE INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS DEPLOYMENT

Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, § 4126, Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1738, as amended by Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title V, § 5105(f)(1), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1529, which required the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a commercial vehicle information systems and networks program and provided for grants for deployment, was repealed by Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title V, § 5101(e)(5), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1525, effective Oct. 1, 2016.

§ 31107. Repealed. Pub. L. 114-94, div. A, title V, § 5101(e)(3), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1525]

Section, added Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, § 4110(a)(2), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1721; amended Pub. L. 112-141, div. C, title II, § 32603(h), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 808, related to border enforcement grants.

A prior section 31107, Pub. L. 103-272, § 1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 992; Pub. L. 105-178, title IV, § 4004(b), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 400; Pub. L. 106-159, title I, § 103(d), Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1754; Pub. L. 108-88, § 7(c)(1), Sept. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 1120; Pub. L. 108-202,

§ 11(c)(1), Feb. 29, 2004, 118 Stat. 490; Pub. L. 108-224, § 9(c)(1), Apr. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 638; Pub. L. 108-263, § 9(c)(1), June 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 709; Pub. L. 108-280, § 9(c)(1), July 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 886; Pub. L. 108-310, § 7(c)(1), Sept. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 1153; Pub. L. 109-14, § 6(c)(1), May 31, 2005, 119 Stat. 330; Pub. L. 109-20, § 6(c)(1), July 1, 2005, 119 Stat. 352; Pub. L. 109-35, § 6(c)(1), July 20, 2005, 119 Stat. 385; Pub. L. 109-37, § 6(c)(1), July 22, 2005, 119 Stat. 400; Pub. L. 109-40, § 6(c)(1), July 28, 2005, 119 Stat. 417, related to contract authority funding for information systems, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 109-59, title IV, § 4110(a)(2), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1721.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective Oct. 1, 2016, subject to a transition provision, see section 5101(f), (g) of Pub. L. 114-94, set out as Effective Date of 2015 Amendment and Transition notes under section 31102 of this title.

§ 31108. Motor carrier research and technology program

(a) RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transportation shall establish and carry out a motor carrier and motor coach research and technology program.

(2) MULTIYEAR PLAN.—The program must include a multi-year research plan that focuses on nonredundant innovative research and shall be coordinated with other research programs or projects ongoing or planned within the Department of Transportation, as appropriate.

(3) RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary may carry out under the program research, development, technology, and technology transfer activities with respect to—

(A) the causes of accidents, injuries, and fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles;

(B) means of reducing the number and severity of accidents, injuries, and fatalities involving commercial motor vehicles;

(C) improving the safety and efficiency of commercial motor vehicles through technological innovation and improvement;

(D) improving technology used by enforcement officers when conducting roadside inspections and compliance reviews to increase efficiency and information transfers; and

(E) increasing the safety and security of hazardous materials transportation.

(4) TESTS AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary may test, develop, or assist in testing and developing any material, invention, patented article, or process related to the research and technology program.

(5) TRAINING.—The Secretary may use the funds made available to carry out this section for training or education of commercial motor vehicle safety personnel, including training in accident reconstruction and detection of controlled substances or other contraband and stolen cargo or vehicles.

(6) PROCEDURES.—The Secretary may carry out this section—

(A) independently;

(B) in cooperation with other Federal departments, agencies, and instrumentalities and Federal laboratories; or