



# THE CHESAPEAKE GROUP, LLC

A GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FIRM

## Legislative Update 2024 Legislature, Regular Session Louisiana Motor Transport Association

### House Floor:

**HB 240 (Passed-Y:98/N:0)** by Troy Romero→Provides relative to the Louisiana Weights and Measures Law. The proposed law introduces changes to Louisiana's Weights and Measures Law, primarily focusing on fees and penalties. It defines "annual" and "subsequent" inspections for commercial weighing and measuring devices and updates fees based on device capacity rather than weight. It mandates subsequent inspection fees and retains current licensing and registration fees. Additionally, it establishes a fund for program expenses. The law modifies penalty structures, allowing the commissioner to assess fines based on the severity and recurrence of violations and requiring violators to submit corrective action plans within 30 days of notice. Failure to comply may result in further penalties.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1366819>

**HB 785 (Passed-Y:100/N:1)** by Rodney Schamerhorn→Provides relative to liability for commercial motor vehicles. The proposed bill defines "commercial motor vehicle" and "optional equipment." It shields owners, lessors, and operators from legal action for not installing optional equipment, except in accidents after non-compliance with mandatory recalls. It clarifies that owners aren't obliged to install optional equipment, and its absence can't establish negligence.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1365473>

**HCR 35 (Passed-Y:99/N:0)** by Mark Wright→Creates the Special Legislative Committee on Regulatory Reform, composed of four members of the House selected by the speaker, with one designated as the chairman, and three members of the Senate selected by the president, with one designated as the vice chairman, to study and make recommendations with respect to Louisiana's regulatory environment and report findings to the legislature prior to Dec. 31, 2024.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1363808>

### House Civil Law:

**HB 88 (Favorably)** by Michael Melerine→Provides proper venue for foreign or alien insurers and removes the requirement that actions against foreign or alien insurers be brought in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1365263>

## **House Labor:**

**HB 119 (Favorably as Amended)** by Troy Romero→Provides for a decrease in the duration of unemployment compensation benefits and provides for extended benefits for claimants. The proposed bill reduces the maximum duration of unemployment benefits from 26 to 20 weeks and introduces a formula to determine benefit duration based on the average unemployment rate. It mandates the Louisiana Workforce Commission to publish biannually updates on maximum benefits. Additionally, it defines eligibility terms and establishes rules for extended benefits, tying eligibility to enrollment in training programs.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1344880>

Read adopted amendments here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1366987>

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1364902>

**HB 234 (Voluntarily Deferred)** by Delisha Boyd→Prohibits intentional employment discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. The proposed bill aims to amend existing laws on discrimination in employment by adding definitions for gender identity and sexual orientation. It prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in addition to existing protections for race, color, religion, sex, national origin, and hairstyle. The bill clarifies that certain discriminatory actions based on sexual orientation and gender identity may be permissible if they are bona fide occupational qualifications.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1347738>

**HB 529 (Favorably as Amended)** by Raymond Crews→Provides relative to the determination of the average weekly wage. The proposed bill alters the definition of "wages" in workers' compensation cases. It replaces the previous method with a calculation based on the employee's total earnings over 52 weeks before the accident, including various forms of compensation. If the employee worked less than 52 weeks, alternate calculations are provided. Additionally, it removes the definition of "part-time employee" from existing law.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1351377>

Read adopted amendments here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1366934>

**HB 618 (Favorably as Amended)** by Beau Beaulieu→Provides relative to accident reporting and access to medical records and information related to claims. The proposed bill maintains current policy ensuring access to medical information in workers' compensation cases. It requires employees to sign and return medical release forms within 10 days of request or face benefit suspension. Failure to comply can lead to orders to release records and reimburse employer costs. It also updates the timeline for injury notice to employers and penalties for non-compliance. Confidentiality of medical records remains intact, and submitting required information doesn't imply admitting injury or death occurrence or compensability.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1352181>

Read adopted amendments here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1366917>

## **House Appropriations:**

**HB 446 (Favorably as Amended)** by Stephanie Hilferty→Provides relative to notifications of public meetings and duties of public bodies and the commissioner of administration relative thereto. Requires a public body to provide notice of a meeting to a person so requesting at the same time and same manner it is provided to the members of the public body and to submit notice of each meeting to the commissioner of administration for inclusion on the boards and commissions website. Requires the commissioner to provide for the capability for members of the public to request and receive electronic notifications of meetings.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1365505>

## **House Transportation:**

**HB 825 (Favorably as Amended)** by Troy Romero→Provides for trucks hauling construction aggregates authorization to exceed the maximum gross vehicle weight limit in certain circumstances. Provides for exceptions and definitions. It expands the definition of "construction aggregates" to include bulk rock, sand rock, and asphalt millings. It authorizes dump trucks carrying concrete or construction aggregates to exceed axle weight limits by up to 5%, with penalties for excess weight beyond that. Maximum gross weight for such trucks is set at 80,000 pounds with a 2% tolerance. The bill defines "dump truck" as a vehicle exclusively for transporting construction aggregates.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1365495>

**HB 880 (Favorably as Amended)** by Rodney Schamerhorn→Provides an exception to annual registration renewals for trucks weighing ten thousand to sixteen thousand pounds, which must be renewed quadrennially.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1365506>

**HB 935 (Voluntarily Deferred)** by Jerome Zeringue→Exempts commercial vehicles from the required one-year or two-year certificates of inspection and repeals provisions relative to the annual fee or charge for a commercial motor vehicle inspection

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1361351>

**SB 260 (Favorably)** by Heather Cloud→Provides for amending and transferring commercial truck permits. The proposed amendment enables the modification and transfer of commercial truck permits. Upon request, the secretary will issue a special permit allowing a single vehicle or combination to operate. It introduces a "multi-use permit," transferable among vehicles owned by the same company. Provides the department shall allow permits to be amended or transferred between vehicles four times a year. Additionally, the amendment mandates associating the unique identifier of the multi-use permit with the permit holder's USDOT number.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1356389>

## **Senate Insurance:**

**HB 337 (Removed from Hearing)** by Jack McFarland→Provides that in direct action cases, an action is filed against the insured first and may be filed against the insurer under limited circumstances. The proposed bill amends Louisiana law regarding direct actions against insurers, specifying circumstances for direct action against insurers alone, interrupting prescription upon

filing against insured, and prohibiting insurer names in case captions or jury disclosure of insurance coverage. It clarifies that liability policies are for the benefit of all injured parties and aims to streamline procedures for seeking compensation from insurers in liability cases.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1359279>

**HB 511 (Favorably)** by John Illg, Jr→Requires proper completion and retention of the uninsured motorist form for rejection of coverage. Authorize insurers to require the producer of record to obtain the uninsured motorist form signed by the named insured. Applies to new policies written after April 1, 2025.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1362193>

**SB 369 (Favorably as Amended)** by Adam Bass→The proposed bill updates insurance fraud laws, keeping current penalties and practices. It designates the 19th Judicial District Court in East Baton Rouge Parish for relevant cases and eliminates the effective date clause. Certain provisions on fraud assessment fees are repealed, and funds can now support various state agencies combating insurance fraud. The bill empowers the commissioner to manage the Insurance Fraud Investigation Dedicated Fund Account. These changes take effect on July 1, 2024. Amendments include: changes fee allocation, authorizing the insurance commissioner to distribute funds to combat insurance fraud, broadens fund usage, and effective dates based on gubernatorial action.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1352816>

## **Senate Transportation:**

**HB 381 (Favorably)** by Jacob Braud→Provides for spending of windfall proceeds from toll collections on public-private partnership projects. The proposed law allows the department to use windfall proceeds to: (1) reduce toll rates on the project, (2) settle amounts owed to developers for early handback options, (3) cover annual CPI buy-down payments, (4) fund department projects in specified areas, and (5) fulfill any other agreed-upon purposes outlined in contract amendments.

Read full provisions here:

<https://legis.la.gov/legis/ViewDocument.aspx?d=1355007>