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North Carolina Trucking Association Applauds Passage of Escort Vehicle Driver Reform

Raleigh, N.C. – The North Carolina Trucking Association (NCTA) proudly recognizes the passage of Session Law 2024-45, Senate Bill 607, which introduces pivotal reforms championed by the NCTA's Heavy Haul Working Group. These changes address critical workforce challenges and modernize requirements for escort vehicle drivers, ensuring the efficient and safe movement of oversize and overweight loads throughout North Carolina.

The new law includes several key provisions:

- Reducing the age eligibility requirement for escort drivers to 18 years old.
- Allowing individuals with a valid Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to sit for the escort vehicle certification examination without additional coursework.
- Permitting employers to train and certify their own escort drivers.
- Establishing clear rules regarding the dimensions of escort vehicles, including allowing vehicles up to 26,000 pounds to serve in this role.

"This legislation frees up a critical logjam in our industry by making it easier to employ skilled escort vehicle drivers," said Ben Greenberg, President of the NCTA. "By reducing unnecessary barriers, this law ensures that we have the workforce necessary to keep the big stuff moving smoothly through North Carolina. These reforms are a testament to the collaborative efforts of our Heavy Haul Working Group and our dedicated legislators."

The NCTA advocated for these reforms to address the growing demand for qualified escort drivers and to reduce the regulatory burdens on businesses. Senate Bill 607 represents a significant step forward in aligning North Carolina's escort vehicle driver requirements with industry needs, ensuring the safety and efficiency of heavy haul operations across the state.

The Heavy Haul Working Group, a dedicated committee within the NCTA, played a crucial role in shaping these changes. Through ongoing collaboration with state lawmakers, the Department of Transportation, and industry stakeholders, the group has successfully secured practical solutions that benefit both the trucking industry and North Carolina's economy.

About the North Carolina Trucking Association

The North Carolina Trucking Association (NCTA) serves as the leading advocate for the state's trucking industry. Since 1929, the NCTA has worked to promote safe, efficient, and sustainable trucking operations while advancing the interests of North Carolina's drivers and companies. Learn more at www.nctrucking.com.