

It is my concern that the type of training, testing, oversight and enforcement involved in a graduated commercial drivers license will be so overwhelming that the program will drain funds both from the private and public sectors. It is not possible in this or any economic climate for private employers, whose profit is limited by market factors, and who would cease to exist altogether without profit, to bear the expense of a year-long training program involving a novice and experienced driver, as some have proposed. Certainly private individuals could not bear the cost of this training on minimal pay for doing reduced amounts of work in selected areas (low traffic areas, etc). Also, the cost to State government for training, administration, and enforcement of such a program would mean higher taxes at the State, or even the Federal level.

I do not believe that it can be demonstrated, or reasonably argued that safety would increase dramatically by such a testing and licensing program. Safety is a result of a 1)basic knowledge of the vehicle, 2)courtesy, and 3)driving carefully. It is unfortunate that many drivers do not follow those simple guidelines, and end up as another accident statistic. However, I have seen or heard of very few accidents that could not have been avoided had the professional driver followed the three guidelines given above. Thousands of drivers who have had minimal training now put on millions of miles on the road without an accident because they understand the importance of maintaining a good record, protecting their job, and safeguarding others on the road.

What this type of testing and licensing might do is reduce the number of people willing to enter the driving profession. Several years ago it was written that the number of new drivers entering the profession is less than those leaving it. Wages are not the highest for the amount of responsibility, work, and knowledge required to do the job properly. If trucks stop moving, and loads are not delivered for lack of drivers, there could be a serious negative impact on the national economy.

Thank you,
Mike Dykstra