

I would like to comment on the new proposed Safety Performance History of New Drivers regulations. It is true that former employers do not want to take the time or face the risks of litigation, etc to submit information about their former drivers. The proposal is an outdated bandaid at best and only compounds an already staggering administrative burden on employers. If you really want to keep the unsafe drivers off of the road and really help the prospective employers determine if they want to have the applicant driving for them, then you need a central respository where current employers report any adverse data (in a fast and convenient manner) and new prospective employers can access the database quickly and efficiently to obtain information about any recent misconduct, accidents, drug use, etc. Your approach assumes that the prospective employee gives you correct information about the previous employer and their address. Employers go bankrupt, merge, and are bought out. In an asset purchase the new company does not receive the drivers files on previous employees of the acquired company and the acquired company no longer exists to answer any inquiries. Not to mention the loss of records due to fire, water, deterioration, loss, misfiled, etc. The only fast, efficient and accurate system would be a central database where all information is gathered and stored. If the project is too big for DOT to handle then just ask private industry to do it. We have credit bureaus, gun control databases, criminal record databases, etc. so if you really want prospective employers to be able to know what the drivers previous record was like for safety then it needs to be recorded somewhere so they can get it quickly and easily without having to contact several previous employers that may not even still exist. Please look at moving into the 20th Century if not into the 21st Century.