

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



**SENATOR PATTY RITCHIE
48TH DISTRICT
OSWEGO, JEFFERSON, ST. LAWRENCE COUNTIES**

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FOR SENATE/ASSEMBLY RELATIONS**

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December 15, 2017

The Honorable Theresa Egan
Executive Deputy Commissioner
NYS Department of Motor Vehicles
6 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Deputy Commissioner Egan:

I write you regarding the New York State commercial driver's license (CDL) exam and the 'extreme difficulties' hopeful drivers are having in meeting the new road test requirements that were introduced on October 1, 2017. Requirements that are now doing more damage than good.

Recently, a number of companies and school district officials reached out to me with a growing concern regarding the number of potential drivers who have been unable to reach these new standards. Repeatedly, I have heard reports of 90 percent failure rates, tests taking as long as three hours, and inconsistent determinations on what constitutes passage or failure.

Not only are companies and interested drivers concerned about these burdensome new requirements, there is considerable confusion in the clarity of what these standards even are. In some cases, passage or failure depends on which examiner a test-taker receives. What's more, there seems to have been little or no public outreach prior to these new regulations going into effect.

Undoubtedly, driver training and safety must remain paramount, but we simply cannot continue to use testing parameters that not even the most well-trained drivers can pass. The implementation of these federal guidelines reflects a top-down government approach without sensible real-world application. Absent changes, these new standards will cripple our ability to create and fill jobs and provide opportunities for the people I represent.

REPLY TO: **ALBANY OFFICE:** ROOM 412 LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247 (518) 455-3438

JEFFERSON COUNTY OFFICE: 317 WASHINGTON STREET, ROOM 418, WATERTOWN, NEW YORK 13601 (315) 782-3418

OSWEGO COUNTY OFFICE: 46 EAST BRIDGE STREET, FIRST FLOOR, OSWEGO, NEW YORK 13126 (315) 342-2057

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY OFFICE: 330 FORD STREET, OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669 (315) 393-3024

E-MAIL: RITCHIE@NYSenate.GOV

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I would appreciate your timely review of this issue. These standards and how they are applied on the CDL exam must be reevaluated. We need to make sure that organizations looking to provide these much-needed jobs—and our hard working truck drivers hoping to earn one of these positions—clearly understand what will be expected of them as they take these important tests.

As you consider these concerns, if you need any more information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patty Ritchie". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops for the letters "P" and "R".

Patty Ritchie
State Senator

PAR/gdw

Cc: Honorable Andrew Cuomo
Honorable Mary Lou Rupp
Honorable Gizelle Meeks
Honorable Michael Backus