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FMCSA Proposes Pilot Program to Allow 18-20 Year Olds to Operate CMVs in Interstate Commerce

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has [proposed a pilot program](#) to allow drivers aged 18, 19, and 20 to operate commercial motor vehicles in interstate commerce.

FMCSA was directed to conduct a limited pilot program in section 5404 of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) (Pub. L. 114-94). On May 15, 2019, FMCSA published a [notice](#) requesting public comments on this pilot program. That notice asked specific questions regarding training, qualifications, driving limitations, operational and participation requirements, insurance, research and data, and vehicle safety systems that should be considered in developing a second pilot program for younger drivers.

FMCSA previously proposed a pilot program involving the same age range of drivers in interstate commerce, but restricted that pilot to military service members who had received specified heavy-vehicle driver training and who had then been hired by a participating motor carrier ([81 FR 56745](#)). This program is currently underway. At its conclusion, the records of the younger drivers (the study group) will be compared to the records of a control group of comparable size, comprised of drivers who are between 21 and 24 years old and who have comparable training and experience in driving commercial vehicles.

The current proposal represents FMCSA's intention to move forward with the expanded pilot and responds to the previously submitted comments to the docket. Comments on the program must be received by **November 9, 2020**. Members submitting comments are encouraged to copy governmentaffairs@aamva.org so that their comments may be reflected in those submitted by AAMVA.

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