

The Implication of the Hours of Service Differential in Serious and Fatal Commercial Vehicle Crashes: Florida's Experience

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Operators of commercial motor vehicles are subjected to limitations concerning the hours they may drive and be on duty. Currently there is disparity between the number of hours that a driver can lawfully be on duty and drive under Federal regulations as opposed to the number of hours a driver may be on duty and drive under Florida Statutes. As a result of this disparity, Florida is deprived of grant funding of approximately \$3 million per year as a sanction for failing to conform to the Federal regulations. A provision found in 49 CFR Part 350.345 allows for an exemption if it can be established that Florida's regulations do not have a negative impact on safety. This study establishes the fact that Florida's expanded hours of service statutes do not have a negative impact of safety.