

New York loses nearly \$74M over unrevoked immigrant trucker licenses

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Seth Wenig/AP photo

Department of Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy speaks during a news conference at LaGuardia Airport, Monday, March 23 after an Air Canada jet collided the night before with a Port Authority firetruck shortly after landing in New York.

New York will lose more than \$73.5 million in federal money because the Transportation Department said Thursday that state has refused to revoke nearly 33,000 questionable commercial driver's licenses for immigrants since an audit uncovered problems last year.

The department said that more than half of the 200 licenses reviewed during the audit had significant problems such as remaining valid long after an immigrant was authorized to be in the country. So the state was ordered to review all of this type of licenses and revoke illegal ones.

The federal government has reviewed records related to these non-domiciled CDLs in every state since Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy put a spotlight on this issue after an August crash in Florida that killed three people. Most states have either complied or are in negotiations with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, but California has lost \$200 million. Several other states — including Pennsylvania, Minnesota and North Carolina — have been warned they are at risk of losing some funding.

"I promised the American people I would hold any state leader accountable for failing to keep them safe from unvetted, unqualified foreign drivers. I'm delivering on that promise today," Duffy said.

Duffy has said that immigrants account for about 20% of all truck drivers nationwide, but these non-domiciled licenses immigrants can receive only represent about 5% of all commercial driver's licenses or about 200,000 drivers. New York issued 32,606 of them. New rules the Transportation Department has announced will prevent 97% of those foreign drivers from getting a commercial license again.

New York officials have defended their licensing practices and said they are

complying with federal law and that audits during the first Trump administration supported that.

This is not the first time that the Transportation Department had withheld or threatened to withhold funding from New York since Trump returned to office.

Duffy put a hold on \$18 billion in funding for a subway extension in Manhattan and tunnels beneath the Hudson River for Amtrak and commuter rail trains. The Trump administration agreed Thursday to restore funding for the subway project. In February, a judge ordered the funding to continue for the tunnel project. Duffy also threatened to pull federal funding from New York if it did not abandon a congestion pricing fee for driving into a large swath of Manhattan and if crime on the subway system was not addressed. The state also fought those efforts in court and won.

Gov. Kathy Hochul's spokesman Sean Butler said the action related to commercial driver's licenses seems to be part of broad effort to attack blue states.

"This continues a yearlong pattern of Secretary Duffy threatening to withhold money that keeps our roads, subways, and other infrastructure safe for New Yorkers. We will fight back, and once again we will win," Butler said.

Trucking industry groups have praised the Transportation Department's efforts to get unqualified drivers off the road, crack down on questionable trucking schools and go after trucking companies that violate the rules and then just change their names and keep operating. The industry said that too often unqualified drivers who shouldn't have licenses or can't speak English have been allowed to get behind the wheel of an 80,000-pound (about 39,916 kilograms) truck.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Today is **Friday, April 17**, the 107th day of 2026. There are 258 days left in the year.

ON THIS DAY IN 1961, some 1,400 CIA-trained Cuban exiles launched the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in a failed bid to topple Fidel Castro. Cuban forces crushed the incursion within three days.

IN 1964, Geraldine "Jerrie" Mock completed the first solo around-the-world flight by a woman, landing her single-engine Cessna plane in Columbus, Ohio, after a 29-day journey.

IN 1969, a jury in Los Angeles convicted Sirhan Sirhan of assassinating Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Sirhan's death sentence later was commuted to life in prison with the possibility of parole. He remains in prison today.

IN 1970, Apollo 13 astronauts James A. Lovell, Fred W. Haise and Jack Swigert splashed down safely in the Pacific, four days after a ruptured oxygen tank crippled their spacecraft and forced the crew to abort plans for a third moon landing.

IN 1975, Cambodia's five-year civil war ended as the capital Phnom Penh fell to the Khmer Rouge, which instituted brutal, radical policies that claimed an estimated 1.7 million lives, nearly one in four Cambodians, until the regime was overthrown in 1979.

IN 1993, a federal jury in Los Angeles convicted two former police officers of violating the civil rights of motorist Rodney King in a 1991 beating. Two other officers were acquitted.

IN 2013, a massive explosion of ammonium nitrate at a Texas fertilizer plant killed 15 people and injured hundreds of others. The blast and fire at the West Fertilizer Co. plant left part of the small town of West in ruins.

IN 2014, astronomers announced NASA's orbiting Kepler telescope had discovered the most Earth-like planet yet detected — a distant, rocky world similar in size to our own orbiting a red dwarf star in the "Goldilocks" zone where it's not too hot and not too cold for life.

Today's Birthdays: Actor David Bradley is 84. Actor Clarke Peters is 74. Author Nick Hornby is 69. Actor Sean Bean is 67. Rock singer Maynard James Keenan (Tool) is 62. Actor Lela Rochon is 62. Actor Kimberly Elise is 59. Singer-songwriter Liz Phair is 59. Director-producer Adam McKay is 58. Rapper-actor Redman is 56. Football Hall of Famer Tony Boselli is 54. Actor Jennifer Garner is 54. Singer Victoria Beckham is 52. Actor Rooney Mara is 41. Rapper Ryuujin is 25. Actor Kyla-Drew Simmons is 22. Singer Asa Enami is 20.

FAIR

FROM PAGE A1

development, advocacy and community service," Haynes

said. "We use the funds to support local missions. We also just enjoy bringing something fun to the community and we are supporting local businesses in the process."

Haynes said Saturday is a

great opportunity for anyone to find a gift for someone special.

"You can find gifts for yourself or for friends. Mother's Day is just around the corner, so you could find something

unique for your mom," Haynes said, adding that graduation is drawing near also. "All kinds of good reasons to come on out and take a look."

Haynes, who is also the current president of the Unite

Women of Faith group, said they are praying for beautiful weather so everyone can enjoy the vendors outside.

"It's always nice to walk around in the fresh air and take a look at all the items

available. If, however, it does rain, we will bring the event indoors to our Fellowship Hall," Haynes said. "We want everyone to come out and enjoy the day with us. It will be a wonderful event."

NURSES

FROM PAGE A1

before the lamp is extinguished and presented to the family.

All participants in the ceremony wear the traditional white nurse's uniform.

Sharp said the group's first

Hardin County service was Thursday at Brown Funeral Home in Elizabethtown.

Since starting in the fall, Sharp said the group is currently at 18 active members but they welcome more to join.

To be part of the group, Sharp said the individual has to or have been a nurse, RN

or LPN, in good standing with Kentucky Board of Nursing. Anyone interested in joining can call Sharp at 270-765-8190.

"My goal is to get more volunteer nurses and to get the word out to the community so the families of nurses who pass will know that we do this free service," Sharp said. "We just want to be there to show support."

ECTC

FROM PAGE A1

is offering a \$2,500 challenge to the Unstoppable Fund when 25 donations are received.

"ECTC Giving Day is an opportunity for our community and college members to support students who require additional

assistance," said Dr. Megan Stith, ECTC vice president of advancement who also serves at KCTCS Foundation executive director. "Each year, we look forward to seeing what we can achieve together."

To participate in ECTC Giving Day and support students and the community, visit ectc.us/giving-day to select a gift designation. Early giving is open.

For more information, contact Angell at (270) 706-8833 or chrisie.angell@kctcs.edu.



KODEE BRINEGAR/The News-Enterprise

With a handful of books in her arms, Michelle Gartner continues browsing Thursday at the Spring Book Sale hosted by the Friends of the Hardin County Public Library. The sale continues today and Saturday.

BOOK

FROM PAGE A1

where stories are told and

kept," Osborne said. "The Hardin County Public Library helps keep the community connected and this place does that in so many ways."

The book sale continues

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. today and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday with remaining inventory at a discounted price at the library. Purchases are cash only.

On Friday, May 8th

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Towne Mall undergoing major renovation to become City Center

Malibu Jacks coming to Towne Mall

Tropical Smoothie Cafe promises healthier, fresher choices

Global initiative brings improvements to community

Submitted as the City Center, as depicted in this rendering by LK Architecture. An open-air concept for this space to accommodate smaller retail stores and located next to JCPenney, which will remain in its original location. The horses

Undergoing major renovation to become City Center

Working on the new life into year-old retail space

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