

Driver's Licenses—Motorcycle License, Online Renewal, and Renewal of Commercial Driver's License; HB 2606

HB 2606 amends law related to testing for a Class M (motorcycle) driver's license, online driver's license renewal, and the length of time a commercial driver's license is valid.

Class M Driver's License Testing

The bill exempts applicants for Class M driver's licenses who have completed motorcycle safety training in accordance with the Motorcycle Safety Foundation (MSF) instruction from completing further written and driving testing by the Division of Vehicles (Division). The bill requires an applicant seeking exemption from the written and driving tests to provide a copy of the MSF completion form to the Division prior to receiving a Class M license. The bill clarifies the driving examination required for licensure shall be administered by the Division, the U.S. Department of Defense, or as part of a curriculum recognized by the MSF.

Vision Tests for Online Driver's License Renewal

The bill specifies vision test requirements for qualifying applicants for electronic online driver's license renewal. A requirement in continuing law that a driver's license examiner administer an eyesight exam prior to renewal of a driver's license will be waived under the conditions listed below:

- The electronic online renewal applicant must be at least 21 years old but less than 50 years old;
- The applicant must certify under penalty of law the applicant's vision meets requirements in continuing law (20/40 or better in at least one eye as tested by the driver's license examiner, 20/60 or better in at least one eye if the applicant submits a vision report from an ophthalmologist or optometrist);
- The applicant must certify under penalty of law the applicant has undergone an examination by a licensed ophthalmologist or a licensed optometrist within the previous year;
- The applicant must authorize the exchange of vision and medical information between the Division and the applicant's ophthalmologist or optometrist; and
- The ophthalmologist or optometrist will have four business days to confirm or deny the vision and medical information of the applicant. The Division will be required to accept the vision and medical information provided for processing the renewal application if the Division does not receive a response from the applicant's ophthalmologist or optometrist within the specified time frame.

The bill states the provisions allowing waiver of vision examination expire July 1, 2022, and the bill requires the Division to report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation by February 1, 2022, regarding the online renewal process and its effects to safety on the state's roads and highways.

The bill requires, rather than authorizes as in previous law, the Secretary of Revenue to adopt and administer rules and regulations regarding electronic online renewal of a driver's license and specify those rules and regulations shall include, but not be limited to, requirements that an electronic online renewal applicant has previously provided documentation of identity, lawful presence, and residence to the Division for electronic scanning.

Commercial Driver's License Renewal

The bill extends from four years to five years the period of time an original commercial driver's license (CDL) issued on and after July 1, 2018, will be valid. The bill extends from four years to five years the period of time before expiration of a CDL. The bill also makes conforming amendments to law.