
HOUSE BILL 1635

State of Washington

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By Representatives Upthegrove, Clibborn, Eddy, Armstrong, Lias, Rivers, Angel, Van De Wege, Wilcox, Maxwell, Rolfes, Finn, Sullivan, Dammeier, Orwall, Warnick, and Moscoso

Read first time 01/27/11. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing customer wait times at driver licensing
2 offices; amending RCW 46.20.181; reenacting and amending RCW 46.20.120;
3 adding a new section to chapter 46.82 RCW; and making an appropriation.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.20.120 and 2005 c 314 s 306 and 2005 c 61 s 2 are
6 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

7 An applicant for a new or renewed driver's license must
8 successfully pass a driver licensing examination to qualify for a
9 driver's license. The department shall give examinations at places and
10 times reasonably available to the people of this state.

11 (1) **Waiver.** The department may waive:

12 (a) All or any part of the examination of any person applying for
13 the renewal of a driver's license unless the department determines that
14 the applicant is not qualified to hold a driver's license under this
15 title; or

16 (b) All or any part of the examination involving operating a motor
17 vehicle if the applicant:

18 (i) Surrenders a valid driver's license issued by the person's
19 previous home state; or

1 (ii) Provides for verification a valid driver's license issued by
2 a foreign driver licensing jurisdiction with which the department has
3 an informal agreement under RCW 46.20.125; and

4 (iii) Is otherwise qualified to be licensed.

5 (2) **Fee.** Each applicant for a new license must pay an examination
6 fee of twenty dollars.

7 (a) The examination fee is in addition to the fee charged for
8 issuance of the license.

9 (b) "New license" means a license issued to a driver:

10 (i) Who has not been previously licensed in this state; or

11 (ii) Whose last previous Washington license has been expired for
12 more than five years.

13 (3) An application for driver's license renewal may be submitted by
14 means of:

15 (a) Personal appearance before the department; or

16 (b) Mail or electronic commerce, if permitted by rule of the
17 department and if the applicant did not renew his or her license by
18 mail or by electronic commerce when it last expired. However, the
19 department may accept an application for renewal of a driver's license
20 submitted by means of mail or electronic commerce only if specific
21 authority and funding is provided for this purpose by June 30, 2004, in
22 the omnibus transportation appropriations act.

23 (4) A person whose license expired or will expire while he or she
24 is living outside the state, may:

25 (a) Apply to the department to extend the validity of his or her
26 license for no more than twelve months. If the person establishes to
27 the department's satisfaction that he or she is unable to return to
28 Washington before the date his or her license expires, the department
29 shall extend the person's license. The department may grant
30 consecutive extensions, but in no event may the cumulative total of
31 extensions exceed twelve months. An extension granted under this
32 section does not change the expiration date of the license for purposes
33 of RCW 46.20.181. The department shall charge a fee of five dollars
34 for each license extension;

35 (b) Apply to the department to renew his or her license by mail or,
36 if permitted by rule of the department, by electronic commerce even if
37 subsection (3)(b) of this section would not otherwise allow renewal by
38 that means. If the person establishes to the department's satisfaction

1 that he or she is unable to return to Washington within twelve months
2 of the date that his or her license expires, the department shall renew
3 the person's license by mail or, if permitted by rule of the
4 department, by electronic commerce.

5 (5) If a qualified person submits an application for renewal under
6 subsection (3)(b) or (4)(b) of this section, he or she is not required
7 to pass an examination nor provide an updated photograph. A license
8 renewed by mail or by electronic commerce that does not include a
9 photograph of the licensee must be labeled "not valid for
10 identification purposes."

11 (6) Driver training schools that comply with chapter 46.82 RCW may
12 administer the portions of the driver licensing examination that test
13 the applicant's knowledge of traffic laws and ability to safely operate
14 a motor vehicle.

15 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.181 and 1999 c 308 s 3 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, every
18 driver's license expires on the (~~(fifth)~~) sixth anniversary of the
19 licensee's birthdate following the issuance of the license.

20 (2) A person may renew his or her license on or before the
21 expiration date by submitting an application as prescribed by the
22 department and paying a fee of (~~(twenty-five)~~) thirty dollars. This
23 fee includes the fee for the required photograph. The department may
24 waive five dollars of the renewal fee under this subsection if a person
25 renews his or her driver's license through the mail or through online
26 services.

27 (3) A person renewing his or her driver's license more than sixty
28 days after the license has expired shall pay a penalty fee of ten
29 dollars in addition to the renewal fee, unless his or her license
30 expired when:

31 (a) The person was outside the state and he or she renews the
32 license within sixty days after returning to this state; or

33 (b) The person was incapacitated and he or she renews the license
34 within sixty days after the termination of the incapacity.

35 (4) During the period from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2006, the
36 department may issue or renew a driver's license for a period other
37 than five years, or may extend by mail a license that has already been

1 issued, in order to evenly distribute, as nearly as possible, the
2 yearly renewal rate of licensed drivers. The fee for a driver's
3 license issued or renewed for a period other than five years, or that
4 has been extended by mail, is five dollars for each year that the
5 license is issued, renewed, or extended. The department may adopt any
6 rules as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.82 RCW
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) Driver training schools may administer the portions of the
10 driver licensing examination that test the applicant's knowledge of
11 traffic laws and ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

12 (2) Driver training schools may not charge an applicant more than
13 twenty-five dollars to administer the driving portion of the
14 examination and may not charge an applicant more than ten dollars to
15 administer the knowledge portion of the examination.

16 (3) The director shall adopt rules to regulate the administration
17 of the knowledge and driving portions of the driver licensing
18 examination. The rules must include, but are not limited to, the
19 following provisions:

20 (a) Limitations or requirements that determine which driver
21 training schools may administer the knowledge portion of the
22 examination;

23 (b) Limitations or requirements that determine which driver
24 training schools may administer the driving portion of the examination;

25 (c) Requirements for recordkeeping, including requirements for
26 records that must be transferred to the department;

27 (d) Requirements for inspections and audits;

28 (e) Standards for the content of the knowledge and driving portions
29 of the examination;

30 (f) Standards for how the knowledge and driving portions of the
31 examination are administered, including standards that determine which
32 staff may administer the examination;

33 (g) Requirements for retesting and expiring examination results;
34 and

35 (h) Sanctions for violations of the rules adopted under this
36 section.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of two hundred thousand dollars, or
2 as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
3 ending June 30, 2013, from the highway safety fund to the department of
4 licensing for the purposes of promoting the use of the department of
5 licensing's online services and for developing additional online
6 services.

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