
SENATE BILL 6344

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senator Morton

Read first time 01/15/08. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to driver's license examinations; amending RCW
2 46.20.130 and 46.20.305; and reenacting and amending RCW 46.20.120.

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

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

6 An applicant for a new or renewed driver's license must
7 successfully pass a driver licensing examination, conducted in English,
8 to qualify for a driver's license. The department shall give
9 examinations at places and times reasonably available to the people of
10 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 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.130 and 2006 c 190 s 1 are each amended to read
12 as follows:

13 (1) The director shall prescribe the content of the driver
14 licensing examination and the manner of conducting the examination,
15 which shall include but is not limited to:

16 (a) A test of the applicant's eyesight and ability to see,
17 understand, and follow highway signs regulating, warning, and directing
18 traffic;

19 (b) A test, conducted in English, of the applicant's knowledge of
20 traffic laws and ability to understand and follow the directives of
21 lawful authority, orally or graphically, that regulate, warn, and
22 direct traffic in accordance with the traffic laws of this state;

23 (c) An actual demonstration of the applicant's ability to operate
24 a motor vehicle without jeopardizing the safety of persons or property.
25 If the applicant is deaf or hearing impaired, the applicant may be
26 accompanied by an interpreter to assist the applicant during the
27 demonstration. The interpreter will be of the applicant's choosing
28 from a list provided by the department of licensing; and

29 (d) Such further examination as the director deems necessary:

30 (i) To determine whether any facts exist that would bar the
31 issuance of a vehicle operator's license under chapters 46.20, 46.21,
32 and 46.29 RCW; and

33 (ii) To determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor
34 vehicle safely on the highways.

35 (2) If the applicant desires to drive a motorcycle or a motor-
36 driven cycle he or she must qualify for a motorcycle endorsement under
37 RCW 46.20.500 through 46.20.515.

1 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.305 and 1999 c 351 s 3 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

3 (1) The department, having good cause to believe that a licensed
4 driver is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed may
5 upon notice require him or her to submit to an examination.

6 (2) The department shall require a driver reported under RCW
7 46.52.070 (2) and (3) to submit to an examination. The examination
8 must be completed no later than one hundred twenty days after the
9 accident report required under RCW 46.52.070(2) is received by the
10 department unless the department, at the request of the operator,
11 extends the time for examination.

12 (3) The department may in addition to an examination under this
13 section require such person to obtain a certificate showing his or her
14 condition signed by a licensed physician or other proper authority
15 designated by the department.

16 (4) Upon the conclusion of an examination under this section the
17 department shall take driver improvement action as may be appropriate
18 and may suspend or revoke the license of such person or permit him or
19 her to retain such license, or may issue a license subject to
20 restrictions as permitted under RCW 46.20.041. The department may
21 suspend or revoke the license of such person who refuses or neglects to
22 submit to such examination.

23 (5) The department may require payment of a fee by a person subject
24 to examination under this section. The department shall set the fee in
25 an amount that is sufficient to cover the additional cost of
26 administering examinations required by this section.

27 (6) Examinations under this section must comply with the
28 requirements of RCW 46.20.130.

--- END ---