
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6590

State of Washington

55th Legislature

1998 Regular Session

By Senate Committee on Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Horn, Haugen and Wood; by request of Department of Licensing)

Read first time 02/10/98.

1 AN ACT Relating to driver's license examinations; amending RCW
2 46.20.120; and adding a new section to chapter 46.20 RCW.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.20.120 and 1990 c 9 s 1 are each amended to read as
5 follows:

6 No new driver's license may be issued and no previously issued
7 license may be renewed until the applicant therefor has successfully
8 passed a driver licensing examination. However, the department may
9 waive all or any part of the examination of any person applying for the
10 renewal of a driver's license except when the department determines
11 that an applicant for a driver's license is not qualified to hold a
12 driver's license under this title. The department may also waive the
13 actual demonstration of the ability to operate a motor vehicle by a
14 person who surrenders a valid driver's license issued by the person's
15 previous home state, province of Canada, or other country with which
16 the department has an informal agreement authorized under section 2 of
17 this act and who is otherwise qualified to be licensed. For a new
18 license examination a fee of seven dollars shall be paid by each
19 applicant, in addition to the fee charged for issuance of the license.

1 A new license is one issued to a driver who has not been previously
2 licensed in this state or to a driver whose last previous Washington
3 license has been expired for more than four years.

4 Any person renewing his or her driver's license more than sixty
5 days after the license has expired shall pay a penalty fee of ten
6 dollars in addition to the renewal fee under RCW 46.20.181. The
7 penalty fee shall be deposited in the highway safety fund.

8 Any person who is outside the state at the time his or her driver's
9 license expires or who is unable to renew the license due to any
10 incapacity may renew the license within sixty days after returning to
11 this state or within sixty days after the termination of any such
12 incapacity without the payment of the penalty fee.

13 The department shall provide for giving examinations at places and
14 times reasonably available to the people of this state.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.20 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The department may enter into informal agreements with other
18 countries waiving the requirement for licensed drivers from that
19 country to take the driving portion of the driver's license
20 examination.

21 (2) The department may only enter into an agreement with a country
22 if it has procedures in place to verify the validity of drivers'
23 licenses issued by that country.

24 (3) An applicant for a Washington driver's license is eligible for
25 a waiver under this section only if:

26 (a) The applicant surrenders a valid driver's license issued to him
27 or her from another country; and

28 (b) The department has entered into an informal agreement with that
29 country under this section.

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