
SENATE BILL 5373

State of Washington

56th Legislature

1999 Regular Session

By Senators Goings, T. Sheldon, Haugen, Heavey, Benton and Oke; by request of Department of Licensing

Read first time 01/21/1999. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to changing the period of time for which a driver's
2 license is valid from four to six years; amending RCW 46.20.120,
3 46.20.161, 46.20.181, 46.20.470, and 46.20.505; and providing an
4 effective date.

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

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

8 No new driver's license may be issued and no previously issued
9 license may be renewed until the applicant therefor has successfully
10 passed a driver licensing examination. However, the department may
11 waive all or any part of the examination of any person applying for the
12 renewal of a driver's license except when the department determines
13 that an applicant for a driver's license is not qualified to hold a
14 driver's license under this title. The department may also waive the
15 actual demonstration of the ability to operate a motor vehicle by a
16 person who surrenders a valid driver's license issued by the person's
17 previous home state and who is otherwise qualified to be licensed. For
18 a new 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~~) six 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 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.161 and 1998 c 41 s 12 are each amended to read
16 as follows:

17 The department, upon receipt of a fee of (~~fourteen~~) twenty-one
18 dollars, unless the driver's license is issued for a period other than
19 six years, in which case the fee shall be three dollars and fifty cents
20 for each year that the license is issued, which includes the fee for
21 the required photograph, shall issue to every applicant qualifying
22 therefor a driver's license, which license shall bear thereon a
23 distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the name of record,
24 date of birth, Washington residence address, photograph, and a brief
25 description of the licensee, and either a facsimile of the signature of
26 the licensee or a space upon which the licensee shall write his usual
27 signature with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license. No
28 license is valid until it has been so signed by the licensee.

29 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.181 and 1990 c 250 s 41 are each amended to read
30 as follows:

31 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, every
32 driver's license expires on the (~~fourth~~) sixth anniversary of the
33 licensee's birthdate following the issuance of the license. Every such
34 license is renewable on or before its expiration upon application
35 prescribed by the department and the payment of a fee of (~~fourteen~~)
36 twenty-one dollars. This fee includes the fee for the required
37 photograph.

1 (2) During the period from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2006, the
2 department may issue or renew a driver's license for a period other
3 than six years, or may extend by mail a license that has already been
4 issued, in order to evenly distribute, as nearly as possible, the
5 yearly renewal rate of licensed drivers. The fee for a driver's
6 license issued or renewed for a period other than six years, or that
7 has been extended by mail, is three dollars and fifty cents for each
8 year that the license is issued, renewed, or extended. The department
9 may adopt any rules as are necessary to carry out this subsection.

10 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.20.470 and 1989 c 178 s 21 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 There shall be an additional fee for issuing any class of
13 commercial driver's license in addition to the prescribed fee required
14 for the issuance of the original driver's license. The additional fee
15 for each class shall not exceed (~~twelve~~) eighteen dollars for the
16 original commercial driver's license or subsequent renewals, unless the
17 commercial driver's license is renewed or extended for a period other
18 than six years, in which case the fee for each class shall not exceed
19 three dollars for each year that the commercial driver's license is
20 renewed or extended. The fee shall be deposited in the highway safety
21 fund.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.20.505 and 1993 c 115 s 1 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 Every person applying for a special endorsement or a new category
25 of endorsement of a driver's license authorizing such person to drive
26 a motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle shall pay an examination fee of
27 two dollars which is not refundable. In addition, the endorsement fee
28 for the initial or new category motorcycle endorsement shall (~~be six~~)
29 not exceed nine dollars, and the subsequent renewal endorsement fee
30 shall (~~be fourteen~~) not exceed twenty-one dollars, unless the
31 endorsement is renewed or extended for a period other than six years,
32 in which case the subsequent renewal endorsement fee shall not exceed
33 three dollars and fifty cents for each year that the endorsement is
34 renewed or extended. The initial or new category and renewal
35 endorsement fees shall be deposited in the motorcycle safety education
36 account of the highway safety fund.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** This act takes effect July 1, 2000.

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