
SENATE BILL 5264

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Swecker, Kastama and Jacobsen; by request of Department of Licensing

Read first time 01/19/2005. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

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

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes the importance of
6 global markets to our state and national economy. As a leader among
7 states in international commerce, Washington houses many multinational
8 corporations. Competition among states for foreign businesses and
9 personnel is fierce and it is necessary to Washington's future economic
10 viability to eliminate a significant regulatory barrier to efficient
11 personnel exchange, resulting in a more attractive business climate in
12 Washington. The legislature recognizes that more than twenty other
13 states have entered into informal reciprocal agreements with other
14 nations to waive driver's license testing requirements in order to ease
15 the transition of personnel to and from those states. By removing an
16 unnecessary barrier to efficient personnel mobility it is the intent of
17 the legislature to strengthen and diversify Washington's economy.

1 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.120 and 2004 c 249 s 6 are each amended to read
2 as follows:

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

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

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

12 (b) (~~The actual demonstration of the ability to operate~~) All or
13 any part of the examination involving operating a motor vehicle if the
14 applicant:

15 (i) Surrenders a valid driver's license issued by the person's
16 previous home state; (~~and~~) or

17 (ii) Provides for verification a valid driver's license issued by
18 a foreign driver licensing jurisdiction with which the department has
19 an informal agreement under section 3 of this act; and

20 (iii) Is otherwise qualified to be licensed.

21 (2) **Fee.** Each applicant for a new license must pay an examination
22 fee of ten dollars.

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

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

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

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

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

31 (a) Personal appearance before the department; or

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

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

3 (a) Apply to the department to extend the validity of his or her
4 license for no more than twelve months. If the person establishes to
5 the department's satisfaction that he or she is unable to return to
6 Washington before the date his or her license expires, the department
7 shall extend the person's license. The department may grant
8 consecutive extensions, but in no event may the cumulative total of
9 extensions exceed twelve months. An extension granted under this
10 section does not change the expiration date of the license for purposes
11 of RCW 46.20.181. The department shall charge a fee of five dollars
12 for each license extension;

13 (b) Apply to the department to renew his or her license by mail or,
14 if permitted by rule of the department, by electronic commerce even if
15 subsection (3)(b) of this section would not otherwise allow renewal by
16 that means. If the person establishes to the department's satisfaction
17 that he or she is unable to return to Washington within twelve months
18 of the date that his or her license expires, the department shall renew
19 the person's license by mail or, if permitted by rule of the
20 department, by electronic commerce.

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

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.20 RCW
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) The department may enter into an informal agreement with one or
30 more other licensing jurisdictions to waive the requirement for the
31 examination involving operating a motor vehicle by licensed drivers,
32 age eighteen years or older, from that jurisdiction.

33 (2) The department may only enter into an agreement with a
34 jurisdiction if:

35 (a) The jurisdiction has procedures in place to verify the validity
36 of the drivers' licenses it issues; and

1 (b) The jurisdiction has agreed to waive all or any part of the
2 driver's license examination requirements for Washington licensed
3 drivers applying for a driver's license in that jurisdiction.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.20 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 The department may make rules to carry out the purposes of sections
7 2 and 3 of this act.

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