
SENATE BILL 6149

State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Senators Eide, King, Haugen, and Shin; by request of Department of Licensing

Read first time 01/12/12. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the period of validity and renewal of drivers'
2 licenses and identicards; amending RCW 46.20.049, 46.20.117, 46.20.120,
3 46.20.161, 46.20.181, and 46.20.505; and providing an effective date.

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

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.20.049 and 2011 c 227 s 6 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 There shall be an additional fee for issuing any class of
8 commercial driver's license in addition to the prescribed fee required
9 for the issuance of the original driver's license. The additional fee
10 for each class shall be ((~~sixty-one~~)) seventy-three dollars and twenty
11 cents for the original commercial driver's license or subsequent
12 renewals. If the commercial driver's license is issued, renewed, or
13 extended for a period other than ((~~five~~)) six years, the fee for each
14 class shall be twelve dollars and twenty cents for each year that the
15 commercial driver's license is issued, renewed, or extended. The fee
16 shall be deposited in the highway safety fund.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.117 and 2005 c 314 s 305 are each amended to
18 read as follows:

1 (1) **Issuance.** The department shall issue an identicard, containing
2 a picture, if the applicant:

3 (a) Does not hold a valid Washington driver's license;

4 (b) Proves his or her identity as required by RCW 46.20.035; and

5 (c) Pays the required fee. Except as provided in subsection (5) of
6 this section, the fee is twenty-four dollars unless an applicant is a
7 recipient of continuing public assistance grants under Title 74 RCW,
8 who is referred in writing by the secretary of social and health
9 services. For those persons the fee must be the actual cost of
10 production of the identicard.

11 (2) **Design and term.** The identicard must:

12 (a) Be distinctly designed so that it will not be confused with the
13 official driver's license; and

14 (b) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, expire on
15 the ((fifth)) sixth anniversary of the applicant's birthdate after
16 issuance.

17 (3) **Renewal.** An application for identicard renewal may be
18 submitted by means of:

19 (a) Personal appearance before the department; or

20 (b) Mail or electronic commerce, if permitted by rule of the
21 department and if the applicant did not renew his or her identicard by
22 mail or by electronic commerce when it last expired. ~~((However, the~~
23 ~~department may accept an application for renewal of an identicard~~
24 ~~submitted by means of mail or electronic commerce only if specific~~
25 ~~authority and funding is provided for this purpose by June 30, 2004, in~~
26 ~~the omnibus transportation appropriations act.))~~

27 An identicard may not be renewed by mail or by electronic commerce
28 unless the renewal issued by the department includes a photograph of
29 the identicard holder.

30 (4) **Cancellation.** The department may cancel an identicard if the
31 holder of the identicard used the card or allowed others to use the
32 card in violation of RCW 46.20.0921.

33 (5) **Alternative issuance/renewal/extension.** From July 1, 2013, to
34 June 30, 2021, the department may issue or renew an identicard for a
35 period other than six years, or may extend by mail or electronic
36 commerce an identicard that has already been issued, in order to evenly
37 distribute, as nearly as possible, the yearly renewal rate of
38 identicard holders. The fee for an identicard issued or renewed for a

1 period other than six years, or that has been extended by mail or
2 electronic commerce, is four dollars for each year that the identicard
3 is issued, renewed, or extended. The department may adopt any rules as
4 are necessary to carry out this subsection.

5 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.120 and 2011 c 370 s 4 are each amended to read
6 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 must ensure that examinations are
10 given at places and times reasonably available to the people of this
11 state. If the department does not administer driver licensing
12 examinations as a routine part of its licensing services within a
13 department region because adequate testing sites are provided by driver
14 training schools or school districts within that region, the department
15 shall, at a minimum, administer driver licensing examinations by
16 appointment to applicants eighteen years of age and older in at least
17 one licensing office within that region.

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

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

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

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

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

30 (iii) Is otherwise qualified to be licensed.

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

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

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

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

1 (ii) Whose last previous Washington license has been expired for
2 more than ((five)) six years.

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

5 (a) Personal appearance before the department; or

6 (b) Mail or electronic commerce, if permitted by rule of the
7 department and if the applicant did not renew his or her license by
8 mail or by electronic commerce when it last expired.

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

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

21 (b) Apply to the department to renew his or her license by mail or,
22 if permitted by rule of the department, by electronic commerce even if
23 subsection (3)(b) of this section would not otherwise allow renewal by
24 that means. If the person establishes to the department's satisfaction
25 that he or she is unable to return to Washington within twelve months
26 of the date that his or her license expires, the department shall renew
27 the person's license by mail or, if permitted by rule of the
28 department, by electronic commerce.

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

35 (6) Driver training schools licensed by the department under
36 chapter 46.82 RCW may administer the portions of the driver licensing
37 examination that test the applicant's knowledge of traffic laws and
38 ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

1 (7) School districts that offer a traffic safety education program
2 under chapter 28A.220 RCW may administer the portions of the driver
3 licensing examination that test the applicant's knowledge of traffic
4 laws and ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

5 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.20.161 and 2000 c 115 s 6 are each amended to read
6 as follows:

7 The department, upon receipt of a fee of (~~twenty-five~~) thirty
8 dollars, unless the driver's license is issued for a period other than
9 (~~five~~) six years, in which case the fee shall be five dollars for
10 each year that the license is issued, which includes the fee for the
11 required photograph, shall issue to every qualifying applicant a
12 driver's license. A driver's license issued to a person under the age
13 of eighteen is an intermediate license, subject to the restrictions
14 imposed under RCW 46.20.075, until the person reaches the age of
15 eighteen. The license must include a distinguishing number assigned to
16 the licensee, the name of record, date of birth, Washington residence
17 address, photograph, a brief description of the licensee, and either a
18 facsimile of the signature of the licensee or a space upon which the
19 licensee shall write his or her usual signature with pen and ink
20 immediately upon receipt of the license. No license is valid until it
21 has been so signed by the licensee.

22 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.20.181 and 1999 c 308 s 3 are each amended to read
23 as follows:

24 (1) Except as provided in subsection (4) or (5) of this section,
25 every driver's license expires on the (~~fifth~~) sixth anniversary of
26 the licensee's birthdate following the issuance of the license.

27 (2) A person may renew his or her license on or before the
28 expiration date by submitting an application as prescribed by the
29 department and paying a fee of (~~twenty-five~~) thirty dollars. This
30 fee includes the fee for the required photograph.

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

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

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

3 (4) (~~During the period from July 1, 2000, to July 1, 2006~~) From
4 July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2021, the department may issue or renew a
5 driver's license for a period other than (~~five~~) six years, or may
6 extend by mail or electronic commerce a license that has already been
7 issued, in order to evenly distribute, as nearly as possible, the
8 yearly renewal rate of licensed drivers. The fee for a driver's
9 license issued or renewed for a period other than (~~five~~) six years,
10 or that has been extended by mail or electronic commerce, is five
11 dollars for each year that the license is issued, renewed, or extended.
12 The department may adopt any rules as are necessary to carry out this
13 subsection.

14 (5) A driver's license that includes a hazardous materials
15 endorsement under chapter 46.25 RCW may expire on an anniversary of the
16 licensee's birthdate other than the sixth year following issuance or
17 renewal of the license in order to match, as nearly as possible, the
18 validity of certification from the federal transportation security
19 administration that the licensee has been determined not to pose a
20 security risk. The fee for a driver's license issued or renewed for a
21 period other than six years is five dollars for each year that the
22 license is issued or renewed, not including any endorsement fees. The
23 department may adjust the expiration date of a driver's license that
24 has previously been issued to conform to the provisions of this
25 subsection if a hazardous materials endorsement is added to the license
26 subsequent to its issuance. If the validity of the driver's license is
27 extended, the licensee must pay a fee of five dollars for each year
28 that the license is extended.

29 (6) The department may adopt any rules as are necessary to carry
30 out this section.

31 **Sec. 6.** RCW 46.20.505 and 2007 c 97 s 1 are each amended to read
32 as follows:

33 Every person applying for a special endorsement of a driver's
34 license authorizing such person to drive a two or three-wheeled
35 motorcycle or a motor-driven cycle shall pay a fee of five dollars,
36 which is not refundable. In addition, the endorsement fee for the
37 initial motorcycle endorsement shall not exceed (~~ten~~) twelve

1 dollars(~~, and~~), unless the endorsement is issued for a period other
2 than six years, in which case the endorsement fee shall not exceed two
3 dollars for each year the initial motorcycle endorsement is issued.
4 The subsequent renewal endorsement fee shall not exceed (~~twenty-five~~)
5 thirty dollars, unless the endorsement is renewed or extended for a
6 period other than (~~five~~) six years, in which case the subsequent
7 renewal endorsement fee shall not exceed five dollars for each year
8 that the endorsement is renewed or extended. Fees collected under this
9 section shall be deposited in the motorcycle safety education account
10 of the highway safety fund.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** This act takes effect July 1, 2013.

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