
HOUSE BILL 1973

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2013 Regular Session

By Representative Clibborn

Read first time 03/01/13. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to driver licensing examination fees; amending RCW
2 46.20.120; and declaring an emergency.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.20.120 and 2012 c 80 s 7 are each amended to read
5 as follows:

6 An applicant for a new or renewed driver's license must
7 successfully pass a driver licensing examination to qualify for a
8 driver's license. The department must ensure that examinations are
9 given at places and times reasonably available to the people of this
10 state. If the department does not administer driver licensing
11 examinations as a routine part of its licensing services within a
12 department region because adequate testing sites are provided by driver
13 training schools or school districts within that region, the department
14 shall, at a minimum, administer driver licensing examinations by
15 appointment to applicants eighteen years of age and older in at least
16 one licensing office within that region.

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

18 (a) All or any part of the examination of any person applying for

1 the renewal of a driver's license unless the department determines that
2 the applicant is not qualified to hold a driver's license under this
3 title; or

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

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

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

11 (iii) Is otherwise qualified to be licensed.

12 (2) **Fee.** Except as otherwise provided in this section, each
13 applicant for a new license must pay an examination fee of thirty-five
14 dollars.

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

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

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

19 (ii) Whose last previous Washington license has been expired for
20 more than six years.

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

23 (a) Personal appearance before the department; or

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

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

29 (a) Apply to the department to extend the validity of his or her
30 license for no more than twelve months. If the person establishes to
31 the department's satisfaction that he or she is unable to return to
32 Washington before the date his or her license expires, the department
33 shall extend the person's license. The department may grant
34 consecutive extensions, but in no event may the cumulative total of
35 extensions exceed twelve months. An extension granted under this
36 section does not change the expiration date of the license for purposes
37 of RCW 46.20.181. The department shall charge a fee of five dollars
38 for each license extension;

1 (b) Apply to the department to renew his or her license by mail or,
2 if permitted by rule of the department, by electronic commerce even if
3 subsection (3)(b) of this section would not otherwise allow renewal by
4 that means. If the person establishes to the department's satisfaction
5 that he or she is unable to return to Washington within twelve months
6 of the date that his or her license expires, the department shall renew
7 the person's license by mail or, if permitted by rule of the
8 department, by electronic commerce.

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

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

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

23 (8) An applicant that has completed or will complete the portions
24 of the driver licensing examination that test the applicant's knowledge
25 of traffic laws and ability to safely operate a motor vehicle under
26 subsection (6) or (7) of this section must pay a fee of five dollars
27 for the vision test and the other portions of the driver licensing
28 examination.

29 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act is necessary for the immediate
30 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the
31 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect
32 immediately.

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