

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

[P E R F E C T E D]

SENATE BILL NO. 406

91ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR WESTFALL.

Read 1st time February 5, 2001, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

Read 2nd time February 12, 2001, and referred to the Committee on Transportation.

Reported from the Committee March 5, 2001, with recommendation that the bill do pass and be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Removed from the Consent Calendar March 8, 2001.

Re-reported from the Committee on Transportation, March 14, 2001, with recommendation that the bill do pass and be placed on the Consent Calendar.

Taken up March 28, 2001. Read 3rd time and placed upon its final passage; bill passed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

1773S.01P

AN ACT

To repeal section 302.173, RSMo 2000, relating to drivers' examination for licensure, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the same subject.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 302.173, RSMo 2000, is repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 302.172 and 302.173, to read as follows:

302.172. 1. The director of revenue is hereby authorized to negotiate and enter into reciprocal agreements or arrangements with foreign countries in order to facilitate the exchange of drivers' licenses.

2. Such agreements or arrangements shall authorize the department of revenue to allow individuals who possess drivers' licenses from foreign countries to obtain a Missouri drivers' license without requiring such persons to complete the examination as provided in section 302.173 other than a vision test and a test of the applicant's ability to understand highway signs regulating, warning or directing traffic.

302.173. 1. Any applicant for a license, who does not possess a valid license issued pursuant to the laws of this state, **another state, or a country which has a reciprocal**

EXPLANATION--Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

agreement with the state of Missouri regarding the exchange of licenses pursuant to section 302.172 shall be examined as herein provided. Any person who has failed to renew such person's license on or before the date of its expiration or within six months thereafter must take the complete examination. Any active member of the armed forces, their adult dependents or any active member of the peace corps may apply for a renewal license without examination of any kind, unless otherwise required by sections 302.700 to 302.780, provided the renewal application shows that the previous license had not been suspended or revoked. Any person honorably discharged from the armed forces of the United States who held a valid license prior to being inducted may apply for a renewal license within sixty days after such person's honorable discharge without submitting to any examination of such person's ability to safely operate a motor vehicle over the highways of this state unless otherwise required by sections 302.700 to 302.780, other than the vision test provided in section 302.175, unless the facts set out in the renewal application or record of convictions on the expiring license, or the records of the director show that there is good cause to authorize the director to require the applicant to submit to the complete examination. No applicant for a renewal license shall be required to submit to any examination of his or her ability to safely operate a motor vehicle over the highways of this state unless otherwise required by sections 302.700 to 302.780 or regulations promulgated thereunder, other than a test of the applicant's ability to understand highway signs regulating, warning or directing traffic and the vision test provided in section 302.175, unless the facts set out in the renewal application or record of convictions on the expiring license, or the records of the director show that there is good cause to authorize the director to require the applicant to submit to the complete examination. The examination shall be made available in each county. Reasonable notice of the time and place of the examination shall be given the applicant by the person or officer designated to conduct it. The complete examination shall include a test of the applicant's natural or corrected vision as prescribed in section 302.175, the applicant's ability to understand highway signs regulating, warning or directing traffic, the applicant's practical knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, and an actual demonstration of ability to exercise due care in the operation of a motor vehicle of the classification for which the license is sought. When an applicant for a license has a [valid] license from a state which has requirements for issuance of a license comparable to the Missouri requirements **or a license from a country which has a reciprocal agreement with the state of Missouri regarding the exchange of licenses pursuant to section 302.172 and such license has not expired more than six months prior to the date of application for the Missouri license,** the director may waive the **test of the applicant's practical knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, and the** requirement of actual demonstration of ability to exercise due care in the operation of a motor vehicle. If the director has reasonable grounds to believe that an applicant is suffering from some known physical or mental ailment which ordinarily would interfere with the applicant's fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways, the director may require

that the examination include a physical or mental examination by a licensed physician of the applicant's choice, at the applicant's expense, to determine the fact. The director shall prescribe regulations to ensure uniformity in the examinations and in the grading thereof and shall prescribe and furnish all forms to the members of the highway patrol and to other persons authorized to conduct examinations as may be necessary to enable the officer or person to properly conduct the examination. The records of the examination shall be forwarded to the director who shall not issue any license hereunder if in the director's opinion the applicant is not qualified to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways of this state.

2. The director of revenue shall delegate the power to conduct the examinations required for a license or permit to any member of the highway patrol or any person employed by the highway patrol. The powers delegated to any examiner may be revoked at any time by the director of revenue upon notice.

3. Notwithstanding the requirements of subsections 1 and 2 of this section, the successful completion of a motorcycle rider training course approved pursuant to sections 302.133 to 302.138 shall constitute an actual demonstration of the person's ability to exercise due care in the operation of a motorcycle or motortricycle, and no further driving test shall be required to obtain a motorcycle or motortricycle license or endorsement.

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