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Sen. Green Announces Help for Senior Citizens Burdened by New Drivers' License Law

Jefferson City, MO – In response to growing concerns that a new Missouri law keeps too many citizens from obtaining driver's licenses, nondriver's licenses and instructional permits, the Missouri Department of Revenue (DoR) has created a review process when the new requirements cannot be met by individuals born prior to 1930.

Under the new law, any resident of Missouri seeking a driver's license must now provide one of the following forms of identification: A U.S. birth certificate issued by the state or local government; a valid U.S. passport; or a certificate of citizenship, a certificate of naturalization, or a certificate of birth abroad.

If an applicant's name has changed through marriage, a marriage certificate must also be provided. If a woman's name has changed because of a divorce, she must present her birth certificate, an official copy of her marriage license and official copy of her divorce decree.

Sen. Tim Green (D-St. Louis) announced today that in exceptional circumstances where proof of lawful presence, identity, Social Security Number, and/or residency are not available; personnel authorized by the director of revenue may accept alternative documents as proof of identification.

"The original legislative intent of Senate Bill 1233, was to ensure that foreign nationals, living, working, studying, and/or visiting in Missouri under a six-month visa would not be allowed to receive a six-year driver license," said Sen. Green. "But the new regulations are particularly difficult for senior citizens to meet, because many do not have birth certificates."

Trish Vincent, Gov. Blunt's director of revenue, refused to implement a specific wavier process that would have eliminated this burden on Missouri's senior citizens. Citing state law that implies that DoR does not have the authority to waive the requirement, the director created an appeals process.

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“This new law presents requirements that are an unnecessary burden, especially for Missourians over 65,” Sen. Green said.

DoR has confirmed that when older citizens do not have a birth certificate or passport, they can now submit other documents such as school records, baby books, baptismal records or U.S. military records as an alternative as proof of lawful presence. Fee office agents have been given a special telephone number to initiate an appeal in exceptional circumstances where a birth certificate or passport is unavailable. DoR has stated that 60-day extensions will be given if the three-member review committee cannot issue a determination on the day that a citizen applies for a driver’s license.

U.S. Citizens born prior to 1930 who are unable to obtain a government-issued birth certificate may provide the following: A certified "No Record Statement" from your state of birth plus two supporting documents (listed below). In Missouri, a certified "No Record Statement" may be obtained from Vital Statistics, the same agency that provides certified birth certificates. This verifies that this no birth record on file.

Supporting documents include, but are not limited to: military records, child's birth certificate (hospital records are not acceptable), baptismal record, insurance policy, social security number, school records, and employment records, etc. The supporting documents should list the applicant’s name, place of birth, date of birth or age at the time the document was issued. Each document does not need to have all of the preceding information but the department needs sufficient information to establish place and date of birth.

These documents can be faxed to (573) 522-9439 or copies mailed to the Show Me Proof Review Panel, Department of Revenue, P.O. Box 200, Jefferson City, MO 65101-0200. A response will be provided within 2 weeks of our receipt of the documents. Citizens may call (573) 751-2730 with any questions. All other "Show Me Proof" requirements for proof of identity and proof of residency still apply.

Additional information can be found on the Department of Revenue’s website <http://www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/drivers/idrequirements.htm> or by mailing a written request to the Missouri Department of Revenue, PO Box 200, Jefferson City, MO 65105-0200, or by telephone (573)-751-2730.
