

*“Nothing is politically right
which is morally wrong.”*
– Daniel O’Connell



*“Free and fair discussion will ever be
found the firmest friend of truth.”*
– George Campbell

MISSOURI SENATE

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Easing the Burden for Driver’s License Renewals

Many of us who have tried to renew our driver’s licenses may have realized there are some additional hoops we have to jump through due to the passage of “Show-Me Proof” program. I am sure most of you have walked into the fee office a few days before your license needs to be renewed and have realized you do not have the right documents to get the renewal. Some have the documents at home, while others have to go hunting and sometimes pay for them. What do you need to renew your driver’s license and why did this ever become law?

In 2004, then-Gov. Bob Holden signed a bill adding more steps for Missourians applying for or renewing their driver’s licenses. While there are a couple of added burdens on Missourians looking to ensure they are legal drivers, I want to make this transition as easy as possible.

There are now three steps Missourians must fulfill to receive a driver’s license, non-driver’s license or learner’s permit. First, all residents are required to show proof of their lawful presence as U.S. citizens. Applicants are only required to show these documents once to obtain their licenses. Documents include:

- Birth certificates
- Passports
- Certificates of citizenship, naturalization or birth abroad

Missourians also must provide proof of identity, and this step is only required once unless you have a name change. For most Missourians, this means showing nothing more than reciting their Social Security number. The only complication here is the need for individuals who have undergone a name change to show evidence that their name has been legally changed. Proper documentation of one's name change includes:

- Social Security card
- U.S. passport
- Certified marriage license or divorce decree
- Certified court order
- Certified adoption papers
- Amended birth certificate.

Finally, individuals need to show proof of residency when applying for their licenses.

Documentation can include:

- Applicants' most recent utility bills
- Voter registration cards
- Bank statements
- Paychecks
- Mortgage documents

While these requirements might seem daunting to some, the Missouri Department of Revenue will allow 60-day extensions on driver's licenses for individuals who need extra time to locate these documents. This extension ensures that a customer's driving privilege will not be hampered by a lack of official documents.

For more information on the "Show-Me Proof" program, visit the Missouri Department of Revenue Web site at www.dor.mo.gov and click on the "Show-Me Proof" link on the right side of the page. To reach the Missouri Department of Revenue, dial (573) 751-4450.

If you have any questions regarding this or any other matter, or would like to receive these weekly reports electronically, please call our office toll free at (866) 768-3987 or e-mail bstouffer@senate.mo.gov.

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