



Office of
Jason Crowell State Senator
The Crowell Connection

Senator Jason Crowell proudly represents the people of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Madison, Mississippi, Perry, and Scott Counties.

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Helping Missouri Seniors → Fixing License Renewal Process

In accordance with a federal mandate issued following September 11, Missouri created the Show-Me Proof program in July of last year to ensure that everyone with a state-issued ID card has legal reason to be in the United States. One of the requirements of the Show-Me Proof program is to substantiate lawful presence, and to do that, Missouri citizens had to show their birth certificates.

The Show-Me Proof law's aim is to stop potential terrorists from obtaining state-issued IDs to further their anti-American causes. However, the requirement has unintentionally made the license-renewal process a nightmare for law-abiding senior citizens. And at the same time, it has also significantly drained time, energy and other valuable resources of the Department of Revenue and the Department of Health's Division of Vital Records.

The problem is many senior citizens do not have birth certificates because they were born at home, in other states, or before birth certificates were issued. If they do have one, many are laced with inaccuracies, which bog down the license-renewal process even more.

To correct this, we passed Senate Bill 1001, which exempts Missouri citizens who are currently 65 or older from having to show a birth certificate when renewing their driver's license. Under the legislation, they would be able to use a previously issued Missouri driver's license, instruction permit or non-driver's license as proof of lawful presence. The legislation also provides that those younger than 65

“senior citizens will not have to abide by unreasonable requirements to renew their driver's licenses.”

who have had a driver's license for at least 15 years but do not have the necessary documents to prove lawful presence can apply for a one-year extension.

With this measure, we will prevent honest Missouri citizens—many of whom have fought for their country in time of war, worked diligently in this state for years, and led notable lives—from being treated like possible terrorists.

Other provisions included in SB 1001 improve safety on the roads by increasing the amount of behind-the-wheel instruction that teen drivers must receive before they can obtain an instruction permit. Teen drivers must have 40 hours, rather than 20, of driving instruction, including at least 10 hours of nighttime driving. To decrease the chances of teen drivers with intermediate driver's licenses being distracted while driving, the measure establishes passenger limitations. For the first six months after acquiring an intermediate driver's license, drivers cannot have in their vehicle more than one passenger who is under the age of 19 and not a member of their immediate family. After that, the intermediate driver's licensee is limited to three such passengers.

The effects of this bill will be far-reaching as senior citizens will not have to abide by unreasonable requirements to renew their driver's licenses, and all motorists can be more confident in the level of safety on the roads because teens will be more experienced and focused on driving with caution. The Legislature passed this measure with an emergency clause, so as soon as the Governor signs it, it will become law.

Contact Me

As always, I appreciate hearing your comments, opinions and concerns. Please feel free to contact me in Jefferson City at (573) 751-2459. You may write to me at Jason Crowell; Missouri Senate; State Capitol; Jefferson City, MO 65101, or email me at: jcrowell@senate.mo.gov or visit me on the web at <http://www.jasoncrowell.com>.

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