ENGROSSED SENATE
BILL NO. 1259

By: Shurden of the Senate

and

Leist of the House

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 1991, Section 6-110, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 1999 (47 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 6-110), which relates to examination of applicants; requiring applicant to have the ability to interpret highway signs which are displayed in international symbols; requiring the Department of Public Safety to provide alternative method of testing certain persons; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 1991, Section 6-110, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 229, O.S.L. 1999 (47 O.S. Supp. 1999, Section 6-110), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-110. A. 1. The Department of Public Safety shall examine every applicant for an original Class A, B, C or D license and for any endorsements thereon, except as otherwise provided in Sections 6-101 through 6-309 of this title or as provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection or in subsection D of this section. Such examination shall include a test of the applicant's:

a. eyesight,

b. ability to ~~read~~ <u>interpret</u> and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic <u>which are displayed in international symbols</u>,

c. knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, and

d. ability, by actual demonstration, to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle. The actual demonstration shall be conducted in the type of motor vehicle for the class of driver license being applied for.

Any licensee seeking to apply for a driver license of another class which is not covered by the licensee's current driver license shall be considered an applicant for an original license for that class.

2. The Department of Public Safety shall have the authority to waive the requirement of any part of the examination required in paragraph 1 of this subsection for those applicants who surrender a valid unexpired driver license issued by any state or country for the same type or types of vehicles, provided that the applicant's driving record meets the standards set by the Department of Public Safety.

3. All applicants requiring a hazardous materials endorsement shall be required to successfully complete the examination for the renewal of such endorsement.

4. The Department of Public Safety shall give the complete examination as provided for in this section within thirty (30) days from the date the application is received, and the examination shall be given at a location within one hundred (100) miles of the residence of the applicant. The Department shall make every effort to make the examination locations and times convenient for applicants. The Department shall consider giving the examination at various school sites if the district board of education for the district in which the site is located agrees and if economically feasible and practicable.

5. The Department shall provide an alternative method of testing the knowledge of the applicant who cannot read or has a language barrier.

B. Any person holding a valid Oklahoma Class D license and applying for a Class A, B or C commercial license shall be required to successfully complete all examinations as required for the specified class.

C. Except as provided in subsection E of Section 6-101 of this title, any person holding a valid Oklahoma Class A, B or C commercial license shall, upon time for renewal thereof, be entitled to a Class D license without any type of testing or examination, except for any endorsements thereon as otherwise provided for by Section 6-110.1 of this title.

D. Under the direction of the Department of Public Safety, any certified driver education instructor may administer the written portion of the Oklahoma driving examination as required for a driver education course or Class D license. The required driving skills portion of the Oklahoma driving examination may be given by such certified driver education instructor to a student who has successfully completed one of the following:

1. A prescribed secondary school driver education course, as defined by Section 19-113 et seq. of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;

2. A driver education course, certified by the Department of Public Safety, from a parochial, private or other nonpublic secondary school; or

3. A commercial driver training course, as defined by Sections 801 through 808 of this title.

SECTION 2. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 6th day of March, 2000.

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President of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the ____ day of _____, 2000.

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Speaker of the House of Representatives