STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 53rd Legislature (2012)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2367 By: Billy

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Sections 6-101, 6-105, 6-110 and 6-122, which relate to the issuance and renewal of driver licenses; authorizing waiver of written and driving examination for motorcycle endorsements and driver licenses under certain circumstances; allowing eligible certified driver education instructors to administer the Class D driving skills examination; directing Department of Public Safety to adopt curriculum of courses and training; establishing fees for initial and annual designated examiner certifications; directing deposit of fees into certain revolving fund; authorizing designated examiners to charge fee for driving skills examination; providing for the promulgation of rules; modifying procedures for renewing driver licenses by mail; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-101, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-101. A. No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted in Section 6-102 of this title, shall operate any motor vehicle upon a highway in this state unless the person has a valid Oklahoma driver license for the class of vehicle being

operated under the provisions of this title. No person shall be permitted to possess more than one valid license at any time.

B. 1. No person shall operate a Class A commercial motor vehicle unless the person is eighteen (18) years of age or older and holds a valid Class A commercial license, except as provided in paragraph 5 of this subsection. Any person holding a valid Class A commercial license shall be permitted to operate motor vehicles in Classes A, B, C and D, except as provided for in paragraph 4 of this subsection.

2. No person shall operate a Class B commercial motor vehicle unless the person is eighteen (18) years of age or older and holds a valid Class B commercial license. Any person holding a valid Class B commercial license shall be permitted to operate motor vehicles in Classes B, C and D, except as provided for in paragraph 4 of this subsection.

3. No person shall operate a Class C commercial motor vehicle unless the person is eighteen (18) years of age or older and holds a valid Class C commercial license. Any person holding a valid Class C commercial license shall be permitted to operate motor vehicles in Classes C and D, except as provided for in paragraph 4 of this subsection.

4. No person under twenty-one (21) years of age shall be licensed to operate any motor vehicle which is required to be placarded for hazardous materials pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part 172,

subpart F; provided, a person eighteen (18) years of age or older may be licensed to operate a farm vehicle which is required to be placarded for hazardous materials pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part 172, subpart F.

5. A person at least seventeen (17) years of age who successfully completes all examinations required by law may be issued by the Department:

a. a restricted Class A commercial license which shall grant to the licensee the privilege to operate a Class A or Class B commercial motor vehicle for harvest purposes or a Class D motor vehicle, or

b. a restricted Class B commercial license which shall grant to the licensee the privilege to operate a Class B commercial motor vehicle for harvest purposes or a Class D motor vehicle.

6. No person shall operate a Class D motor vehicle unless the person is sixteen (16) years of age or older and holds a valid Class D license, except as provided for in Section 6-102 or 6-105 of this title. Any person holding a valid Class D license shall be permitted to operate motor vehicles in Class D only.

C. Any person issued a driver license pursuant to this section may exercise the privilege thereby granted upon all streets and highways in this state.

D. No person shall operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle without having a valid Class A, B, C or D license with a motorcycle endorsement. Except as otherwise provided by law, any new applicant for an original driver license shall be required to successfully complete a written examination, vision examination, and driving examination for a motorcycle as prescribed by the Department of Public Safety to be eligible for a motorcycle endorsement thereon. The written examination and driving examination for a motorcycle may be waived by the Department of Public Safety upon verification that the person has successfully completed a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider course approved by the Department.

E. Except as otherwise provided by law, any person who lawfully possesses a valid Oklahoma driver license which is eligible for renewal shall be required to successfully complete a written examination, vision examination, and driving examination for a motorcycle as prescribed by the Department to be eligible for a motorcycle endorsement~~; provided, however, the Department may waive all such examinations until July 1, 2000, upon satisfactory proof that the applicant has regularly operated a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle for a minimum of two (2) years immediately preceding the application~~. The written examination and driving examination for a motorcycle may be waived by the Department of Public Safety upon verification that the person has successfully completed a

certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider course approved by the Department.

F. 1. Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may apply for a restricted Class A, B or C commercial license. The Department, after the applicant has passed all parts of the examination for a Class D license and has successfully passed all parts of the examination for a Class A, B or C commercial license other than the driving examination, may issue to the applicant a restricted driver license which shall entitle the applicant having immediate possession of the license to operate a Class A, B or C commercial motor vehicle upon the public highways solely for the purpose of behind-the-wheel training in accordance with rules promulgated by the Department.

2. This restricted driver license shall be issued for a period as provided in Section 6-115 of this title; provided, such restricted license may be suspended, revoked, canceled, or denied at the discretion of the Department for violation of the restrictions, for failing to give the required or correct information on the application, or for violation of any traffic laws of this state pertaining to the operation of a motor vehicle. Except as otherwise provided, the lawful possessor of a restricted license who has been issued a restricted license for a minimum of thirty (30) days may have the restriction requiring an accompanying driver removed by satisfactorily completing a driver's examination; provided, the

removal of a restriction shall not authorize the operation of a Class A, B or C commercial motor vehicle if such operation is otherwise prohibited by law.

G. 1. The fee charged for an approved application for an original Oklahoma driver license or an approved application for the addition of an endorsement to a current valid Oklahoma driver license shall be assessed in accordance with the following schedule:

Class A Commercial License	$25.00
Class B Commercial License	$15.00
Class C Commercial License	$15.00
Class D License	$ 4.00
Motorcycle Endorsement	$ 4.00

2. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1104 of this title, all monies collected from the fees charged for Class A, B and C commercial licenses pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund of this state.

H. The fee charged for any failed examination shall be Four Dollars ($4.00) for any license classification. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1104 of this title, all monies collected from such examination fees pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund of this state.

I. 1. In addition to any fee charged pursuant to the provisions of subsection G of this section, the fee charged for the issuance or renewal of an Oklahoma license which is not in a

computerized image format shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Class A Commercial License	$40.50
Class B Commercial License	$40.50
Class C Commercial License	$30.50
Class D License	$20.50

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1104 of this title, of each fee charged pursuant to this paragraph:

a. Five Dollars and fifty cents ($5.50) shall be deposited to the Trauma Care Assistance Revolving Fund created in Section 1-2530.9 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and

b. Five Dollars and seventy-five cents ($5.75) shall be deposited to the Department of Public Safety Computer Imaging System Revolving Fund to be used solely for the purpose of administration and maintenance of the computerized imaging system of the Department.

2. In addition to any fee charged pursuant to the provisions of subsection G of this section, the fee charged for the issuance or renewal of an Oklahoma license which is in a computerized image format shall be in accordance with the following schedule:

Class A Commercial License	$41.50
Class B Commercial License	$41.50
Class C Commercial License	$31.50

Class D License $21.50

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1104 of this title, of each fee charged pursuant to the provisions of this paragraph:

a. Five Dollars and fifty cents ($5.50) shall be deposited to the Trauma Care Assistance Revolving Fund created in Section ~~330.97~~ 1-2530.9 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and

b. Six Dollars and seventy-five cents ($6.75) shall be deposited to the Department of Public Safety Computer Imaging System Revolving Fund to be used solely for the purpose of administration and maintenance of the computerized imaging system of the Department.

J. All original and renewal driver licenses shall expire as provided in Section 6-115 of this title.

K. Any person sixty-two (62) years of age or older during the calendar year of issuance of a Class D license or motorcycle endorsement shall be charged the following prorated fee:

Age 62	$11.25
Age 63	$ 7.50
Age 64	$ 3.75
Age 65	-0-

L. No person who has been honorably discharged from active service in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States or Oklahoma National Guard and who has been certified by the United

States Department of Veterans Affairs, its successor, or the Armed Forces of the United States to be a disabled veteran in receipt of compensation at the one-hundred-percent rate for a permanent disability sustained through military action or accident resulting from disease contracted while in such active service shall be charged a fee for the issuance or renewal of an Oklahoma driver license.

M. The Department of Public Safety and the Oklahoma Tax Commission are authorized to promulgate rules for the issuance and renewal of driver licenses authorized pursuant to the provisions of Sections 6-101 through 6-309 of this title. Applications, upon forms approved by the Department of Public Safety, for such licenses shall be handled by the motor license agents; provided, the Department of Public Safety is authorized to assume these duties in any county of this state. Each motor license agent accepting applications for driver licenses shall receive Two Dollars ($2.00) to be deducted from the total collected for each license or renewal application accepted. The two-dollar fee received by the motor license agent shall be used for operating expenses.

N. Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 1104 of this title and subsection M of this section and except as provided in subsections G and I of this section, the first Sixty Thousand Dollars ($60,000.00) of all monies collected pursuant to this section shall be paid by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to the State

Treasurer to be deposited in the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury.

The next Five Hundred Thousand Dollars ($500,000.00) of monies collected pursuant to this section shall be paid by the Tax Commission to the State Treasurer to be deposited each fiscal year under the provisions of this section to the credit of the Department of Public Safety Revolving Fund for the purpose of the Statewide Law Enforcement Communications System. All other monies collected in excess of Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars ($560,000.00) each fiscal year shall be apportioned as provided in Section 1104 of this title, except as otherwise provided in this section.

O. The Department of Public Safety shall implement a procedure whereby images displayed on licenses and identification cards issued pursuant to the provisions of Sections 6-101 through 6-309 of this title are maintained by the Department to create photographs or computerized images which may be used only:

1. By a law enforcement agency for purposes of criminal investigations, missing person investigations, or any law enforcement purpose which is deemed necessary by the Commissioner of Public Safety;

2. By the driver licensing agency of another state for its official purpose; and

3. As provided in Section 2-110 of this title.

The computer system and related equipment acquired for this purpose must conform to industry standards for interoperability and open architecture. The Department of Public Safety may promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this subsection.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-105, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-105. A. Unless a legal custodial parent or legal guardian has filed an objection to licensure pursuant to Section 6-103.1 of this title, any person under eighteen (18) years of age who is in compliance with or not subject to Section 6-107.3 of this title may be permitted to operate:

1. A Class D motor vehicle under the graduated driver license provisions prescribed in subsections B through E of this section;

2. A motorcycle under the provisions prescribed in subsection H of this section; or

3. A farm vehicle under the provisions prescribed in subsection I of this section.

B. Any person who is at least fifteen (15) years of age may drive during a session in which the driver is being instructed in a driver education course, as set out in subparagraphs a, b, c and d of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section, by a certified driver education instructor who is seated in the right front seat of the motor vehicle.

C. Any person:

1. Who is at least fifteen and one-half (15 1/2) years of age and is currently receiving instruction in or has successfully completed driver education. For purposes of this section, the term "driver education" shall mean:

a. a prescribed secondary school driver education course, as provided for in Sections 19-113 through 19-121 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,

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

c. a commercial driver training course, as defined by Sections 801 through 808 of this title, or

d. a parent-taught driver education course, certified by the Department of Public Safety. The Department shall promulgate rules for any parent-taught driver education course; or

2. Who is at least sixteen (16) years of age,

may, upon successfully passing all parts of the driver license examination administered by the Department except the driving examination, be issued a learner permit which will grant the permittee the privilege to operate a Class D motor vehicle upon the public highways only between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and while accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and who is actually occupying a seat beside

the permittee; provided, the written examination for a learner permit may be waived by the Department of Public Safety upon verification that the person has successfully completed driver education.

D. 1. Any person:

a. who has applied for, been issued, and has possessed a learner permit for a minimum of six (6) months, and

b. whose custodial legal parent or legal guardian certifies to the Department by sworn affidavit that the person has received a minimum of fifty (50) hours of actual behind-the-wheel training, of which at least ten (10) hours of such training was at night, from a licensed driver who was at least twenty-one (21) years of age and who was properly licensed to operate a Class D motor vehicle for a minimum of two (2) years,

may be issued an intermediate Class D license upon successfully passing all parts of the driver license examinations administered by the Department; provided, the written examination, if it has not previously been administered or waived, may be waived by the Department upon verification that the person has successfully completed driver education or the driving examination may be waived by the Department upon successful passage of the examination administered by a certified designated examiner, as provided for in Section 6-110 of this title. However, notwithstanding the date of

issuance of the learner permit, if the person has been convicted of a traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time period specified in subparagraph a of this paragraph shall be recalculated to begin from the date of conviction for the traffic offense, and must elapse before that person may be issued an intermediate Class D license. If the person has been convicted of more than one traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time period specified in subparagraph a of this paragraph shall be recalculated to begin from the most recent date of conviction, and must elapse before that person may be issued an intermediate Class D license.

2. A person who has been issued an intermediate Class D license under the provisions of this subsection:

a. shall be granted the privilege to operate a Class D motor vehicle upon the public highways:

(1) only between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., except for driving to and from work, school, school activities, and church activities, or

(2) at any time, if a licensed driver who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age is actually occupying a seat beside the intermediate Class D licensee, or if the intermediate Class D licensee is a farm or ranch resident, and is operating a

motor vehicle while engaged in farming or ranching operations outside the limits of a municipality, or driving to and from work, school, school activities, or church activities, and

b. shall not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger unless:

(1) all passengers live in the same household as the custodial legal parent or legal guardian, or

(2) a licensed driver at least twenty-one (21) years of age is actually occupying a seat beside the intermediate Class D licensee.

E. Any person who has been issued an intermediate Class D license for a minimum of:

1. One (1) year; or

2. Six (6) months, if the person has completed both the driver education and the parent-certified behind-the-wheel training provisions of subparagraph ~~c~~ b of paragraph 1 of subsection D of this section;

may be issued a Class D license. However, notwithstanding the date of issuance of the Class D license, if the person has been convicted of a traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time periods specified in ~~paragraphs~~ paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection, as applicable, ~~of this subsection~~ shall be

recalculated to begin from the date of conviction for the traffic offense, and must elapse before that person may be issued a Class D license. If the person has been convicted of more than one traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time periods specified in ~~paragraphs~~ paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection, as applicable, ~~of this subsection~~ shall be recalculated to begin from the most recent date of conviction, and must elapse before that person may be issued a Class D license.

F. Learner permits and intermediate Class D licenses shall be issued for the same period as all other driver licenses. The licenses may be suspended or canceled at the discretion of the Department for violation of restrictions, for failing to give the required or correct information on the application, for knowingly giving false or inaccurate information on the application or any subsequent documentation related to the granting of driving privileges, for using a hand-held electronic device while operating a motor vehicle for non-life-threatening emergency purposes or for violation of any traffic laws of this state pertaining to the operation of a motor vehicle.

G. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules establishing procedures for removal of learner permit and intermediate Class D license restrictions from the permit or license upon the permittee or licensee qualifying for a less restricted or an unrestricted license.

H. Any person fourteen (14) years of age or older may apply for a restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only restriction. After the person has successfully passed all parts of the motorcycle examination other than the driving examination and has met all requirements provided for in the rules of the Department, the Department shall issue to the person a restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only restriction which shall grant to the person, while having the license in the person's immediate possession, the privilege to operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle:

1. With a piston displacement not to exceed two hundred fifty (250) cubic centimeters;

2. Between the hours of 4:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. only;

3. While wearing approved protective headgear; and

4. While accompanied by and receiving instruction from any person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and who is properly licensed pursuant to the laws of this state to operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, and who has visual contact with the restricted licensee.

The restricted licensee may apply on or after thirty (30) days from date of issuance of the restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only restriction to have the restriction of being accompanied by a licensed driver removed by successfully completing the driving portion of an examination.

The written examination and driving examination for a restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only endorsement may be waived by the Department of Public Safety upon verification that the person has successfully completed a certified Motorcycle Safety Foundation rider course approved by the Department.

I. The Department may in its discretion issue a special permit to any person who has attained the age of fourteen (14) years, authorizing such person to operate farm vehicles between the farm and the market to haul commodities grown on the farm; provided, that the special permit shall be temporary and shall expire not more than thirty (30) days after the issuance of the special permit. Special permits shall be issued only to farm residents and shall be issued only during the time of the harvest of the principal crops grown on such farm. Provided, however, the Department shall not issue a special permit pursuant to this subsection until the Department is fully satisfied after the examination of the application and other evidence furnished in support thereof, that the person is physically and mentally developed to such a degree that the operation of a motor vehicle by the person would not be inimical to public safety.

J. As used in this section:

1. "Hand-held electronic device" means a mobile telephone or electronic device with which a user engages in a telephone call, plays or stores media, including but not limited to music and video,

or sends or reads a text message while requiring the use of at least one hand; and

2. "Using a hand-held electronic device" means engaging any function on an electronic device.

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, 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 Section 6-101 et seq. of this title or as provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection or in subsection D of this section. The examination shall include a test of the applicant's:

a. eyesight,

b. ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic,

c. knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, including a portion on bicycle and motorcycle safety, 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, for the renewal of the endorsement, to successfully complete the examination and to submit to a security threat assessment performed by the Transportation Security Administration of the Department of Homeland Security as required by and pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part 1572, which shall be used to determine whether the applicant is eligible for renewal of the endorsement pursuant to federal law and regulation.

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.

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. 1. Any certified driver education instructor ~~may administer the written portion of the Oklahoma driving examination as required for a driver education course~~ who is currently an operator or an employee of a commercial driver training school in this state or any driver education instructor employed by any school district in this state shall be eligible to apply to be a designated examiner of the Department of Public Safety for the purposes of administering the Class D driving skills portion of the Oklahoma driving examination to any person who has not previously been a student of the instructor.

2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt a curriculum of required courses and training to be offered to applicants who are qualified to apply to be a designated examiner. The courses and training for certification shall meet the same standards as required for driver examiners of the Department of Public Safety.

3. Each person applying to be a designated examiner shall be required to pay an initial designated examiner certification fee of One Thousand Dollars ($1,000.00). Upon successful completion of training prescribed by paragraph 2 of this subsection, the person shall be required to pay an annual designated examiner certification fee of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00). Each designated examiner certification shall expire on the last day of the calendar year and may be renewed upon application to the Department of Public Safety. The designated examiner certification fees collected by the Department pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited to the credit of the Department of Public Safety Restricted Revolving Fund to be used for the purposes of this subsection. No designated examiner certification fee shall be refunded in the event that certification is denied, suspended or revoked.

4. A designated examiner may charge a fee of no more than Twenty-five Dollars ($25.00) for each Class D driving skills examination given, whether the person being examined passes or fails the examination.

5. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules to implement and administer the provisions of this subsection.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-122, is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-122. The Department of Public Safety shall develop procedures whereby driver licenses issued under the provisions of Section 6-101 et seq. of this title may be renewed by the applicant by mail except for licenses to be renewed by aliens as prescribed by subsection ~~D~~ E of Section 6-115 of this title. Any license issued pursuant to this section shall be valid for a period ~~of not more than four (4) years~~ as prescribed in Section 6-115 of this title. The Department shall not renew a license by mail unless the immediately preceding issuance or renewal was done in person by the applicant.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2012.

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