

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 2183

By: Johns

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

An Act relating to driver licenses; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-110, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-110), which relates to examination of applicants for driver licenses; allowing a public transit agency to hire or employ certain examiners; requiring the Department of Public Safety to approve at least one public transit agency meeting certain criteria; authorizing public transit agency to use third-party examiners; modifying date for promulgation of rules; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-110.1, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 137, O.S.L. 2020 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-110.1), which relates to endorsements; allowing certain existing driver license holders to test for only the new endorsement sought; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-110, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, 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

1 Section 6-101 et seq. of this title or as provided in paragraph 2 of
2 this subsection or in subsections D and E of this section. The
3 examination shall include a test of the applicant's:

- 4 a. eyesight,
- 5 b. ability to read and understand highway signs
6 regulating, warning and directing traffic,
- 7 c. knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, including
8 a portion on bicycle and motorcycle safety, and
- 9 d. ability, by actual demonstration, to exercise ordinary
10 and reasonable control in the operation of a motor
11 vehicle. The actual demonstration shall be conducted
12 in the type of motor vehicle for the class of driver
13 license being applied for.

14 The Department may create a knowledge test that may be taken on the
15 Internet by an applicant applying for a Class D license.

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

19 2. The Department of Public Safety shall have the authority to
20 waive the requirement of any part of the examination required in
21 paragraph 1 of this subsection for those applicants whose driving
22 record meets the standards set by the Department of Public Safety
23 and ~~surrenders~~ surrender either of the following:

- 1 a. a valid unexpired driver license issued by any state
2 or country for the same type or types of vehicles, or
3 b. an expired driver license that:
4 (1) is not expired more than six (6) months past the
5 expiration date listed on the driver license, and
6 (2) is not a Class A, B or C commercial driver
7 license or commercial driver license permit.

8 3. The Department shall accept skills test results from another
9 state for Class A, B or C license applicants who have successfully
10 completed commercial motor vehicle driver training in that state and
11 successfully passed the skills test in that state; provided, the
12 Department shall not accept skills test results from another state
13 when the applicant has not successfully completed commercial motor
14 vehicle driver training in that state. Nothing in this section
15 shall be construed to prohibit the Department from administering the
16 skills test to any applicant who has successfully completed
17 commercial vehicle driver training in another state.

18 4. All applicants requiring a hazardous materials endorsement
19 shall be required, for the renewal of the endorsement, to
20 successfully complete the examination and to submit to a security
21 threat assessment performed by the Transportation Security
22 Administration of the Department of Homeland Security as required by
23 and pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part 1572, which shall be used to
24

1 determine whether the applicant is eligible for renewal of the
2 endorsement pursuant to federal law and regulation.

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

13 B. Any person holding a valid Oklahoma Class D license or
14 provisional driver license pursuant to Section 6-212 of this title
15 and applying for a Class A, B or C commercial license shall be
16 required to successfully complete all examinations as required for
17 the specified class. Failure to submit to the Department federally
18 required medical certification information pursuant to 49 C.F.R.,
19 Part 391.41 et seq. shall result in an automatic downgrade of a
20 commercial license to a Class D license. Provided, however, once
21 the required medical certification information has been received by
22 the Department, the license shall be reinstated to the
23 classification of the commercial license prior to the downgrade and
24 the holder of such a license shall not be required to reapply.

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

7 D. 1. Any certified driver education instructor who is
8 currently an operator or an employee of a commercial driver training
9 school in this state or any driver education instructor employed by
10 any school district in this state shall be eligible to apply to be a
11 designated examiner of the Department of Public Safety for the
12 purposes of administering the Class D driving skills portion of the
13 Oklahoma driving examination to any person who has not previously
14 been a student of the instructor.

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

20 3. Each person applying to be a designated examiner shall be
21 required to pay an initial designated examiner certification fee of
22 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Upon successful completion of
23 training prescribed by paragraph 2 of this subsection, the person
24 shall be required to pay an annual designated examiner certification

1 fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). If an applicant for the
2 designated examiner program is employed by an Oklahoma public school
3 system that offers driver education, and he or she administers the
4 skills test only to students enrolled in a public school driver
5 education program, the certification fee may be waived by the
6 Department. Each designated examiner certification shall expire on
7 the last day of the calendar year and may be renewed upon
8 application to the Department of Public Safety. The designated
9 examiner certification fees collected by the Department pursuant to
10 this subsection shall be deposited to the credit of the Department
11 of Public Safety Restricted Revolving Fund to be used for the
12 purposes of this subsection. No designated examiner certification
13 fee shall be refunded in the event that certification is denied,
14 suspended or revoked.

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

19 5. The Department shall conduct an annual complete nationwide
20 criminal history background check on each designated examiner and a
21 complete nationwide criminal history background check on each
22 designated examiner applicant. The fees for the background check
23 shall be borne by the designated examiner or designated examiner
24 applicant.

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

3 E. 1. Upon application and approval of the Commissioner of ~~the~~
4 ~~Department of~~ Public Safety, any public or private commercial truck
5 driving school that has or maintains a program instructing students
6 for a Class A, B or C license or public transit agency in the State
7 of Oklahoma shall be authorized to hire or employ designated
8 examiners approved by the Department of Public Safety to be third-
9 party examiners of the Class A, B or C driving skills portion of the
10 Oklahoma driving examination. All designated examiners must
11 successfully have completed the courses and training as outlined in
12 paragraph 2 of this subsection. The Department of Public Safety
13 shall be required to approve at least one public transit agency that
14 has or maintains a program instructing students for a Class A, B or
15 C license to hire or employ third-party examiners pursuant to this
16 section. It shall be permissible for any public transit agency
17 operating in the State of Oklahoma to utilize the third-party
18 examiners hired or employed by a public transit agency approved by
19 the Department.

20 2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt a curriculum of
21 required courses and training to be offered to third-party
22 examiners. The courses and training for certification shall meet
23 the same standards as required for commercial driver examiners of
24 the Department of Public Safety.

1 3. The Department shall conduct on an annual basis a complete
2 nationwide criminal history background check on each third-party
3 examiner and a complete nationwide criminal history background check
4 on each third-party examiner applicant. The fees for the background
5 check shall be borne by the third-party examiner or third-party
6 examiner applicant.

7 F. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules no
8 later than December 15, ~~2019~~ 2021, to:

9 1. Implement and administer the provisions of this section
10 based on requirements set forth in Section 383.75 of Title 49 of the
11 Code of Federal Regulations;

12 2. Establish a process to inform any school, public transit
13 agency or examiner, who has been denied, within forty-five (45) days
14 from the denial;

15 3. Create an appeal process for any school, public transit
16 agency or examiner denied; and

17 4. If the initial application for approval was denied, limit
18 the number of times an individual school, public transit agency or
19 individual examiner applicant may reapply in a calendar year to two
20 reapplications.

21 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-110.1, as
22 amended by Section 1, Chapter 137, O.S.L. 2020 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020,
23 Section 6-110.1), is amended to read as follows:

1 Section 6-110.1 A. The following endorsements shall be placed
2 on an Oklahoma driver license to any person qualifying therefore as
3 determined by the Department of Public Safety. Any person having an
4 original Class A, B, C or D Oklahoma driver license shall only be
5 required to take the supporting written endorsement testing which is
6 required to endorse the original Class A, B, C or D Oklahoma driver
7 license.

8 Endorsement

 Authorizes the operation of:

9 "H"

 A non-tank-type vehicle used to
10 transport hazardous materials in
11 placardable amounts pursuant to 49
12 C.F.R., Part 172, subpart F;

13 "M"

 A motorcycle;

14 "N"

 A tank vehicle as defined in Section
15 1-173.1 of this title;

16 "P"

 A vehicle designed by the
17 manufacturer to transport sixteen or
18 more passengers, including the
19 driver;

20 "S"

 A school bus;

21 "T"

 A vehicle with double or triple
22 trailers;

23 "X"

 A tank vehicle used to transport
24 hazardous materials in placardable

1 amounts pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part
2 172, subpart F.

3 B. The Department may also provide for additional endorsements
4 as may be needed or as otherwise provided for by law.

5 C. No person shall operate a motor vehicle requiring
6 endorsements as provided for in this section without having a valid
7 Class A, B, C or D license with the required endorsements.

8 D. All endorsements as provided for in this section must be
9 obtained prior to the operation of such vehicles. However, the
10 requirement for a hazardous materials endorsement is not required
11 for the operation of farm vehicles used to transport pesticides,
12 fertilizers, or other products integral to farming, but which are
13 defined as hazardous materials. If, after obtaining a hazardous
14 material endorsement, a person becomes ineligible for the hazardous
15 material endorsement pursuant to state or federal law, or both, or
16 any regulation, the Department of Public Safety shall provide notice
17 as provided in Section 2-116 of this title. A person will have
18 thirty (30) days from the date of the notice to appear at a
19 designated testing facility to apply and be issued a commercial
20 driver license without the endorsement. Failure to comply within
21 the required time shall be grounds for the Department of Public
22 Safety to disqualify the commercial driver license of the person
23 until compliance has been met.

SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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