

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

POLICY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION

FOR

HOUSE BILL NO. 4153

By: Hasenbeck

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

An Act relating to driver licenses; creating a requirement to demonstrate an eighth grade reading level for minors to obtain a driver license; establishing criteria for satisfying reading tester requirements for a driver license for public school students; requiring students under eighteen to complete a reading proficiency test; requiring a plan of remedial reading if assessments are not successfully completed; providing an option for students to take alternative reading proficiency tests if the initial assessment is unsuccessful; allowing students to take an alternative reading test for motorcycle licenses; establishing alternative reading testing sites requirements; requiring school districts to provide alternative documentation of reading proficiency if applicable; establishing alternative documentation requirements; allowing students to submit reading proficiency test results from other states; requiring the Department of Education to approve or disapprove out-of-state test results; creating requirement for documentation of school enrollment, completion, or lawful excuse for minors to obtain a driver license; requiring minors to demonstrate reading proficiency at an eighth-grade reading level unless excused; establishing exception for summer months; establishing documentation requirements for students educated by other means; establishing misdemeanor for violations; providing alternate route to obtain driver license for certain employed persons under eighteen; establishing employer fines for falsification; requiring

1 attendance officers to provide documentation;  
2 requiring attendance officers to notify Service  
3 Oklahoma of certain student withdrawals; requiring  
4 notification of license cancellation in certain  
5 circumstances; providing exceptions for notice  
6 requirements; requiring school districts to provide  
7 documentation of reading proficiency to certain  
8 enrolled students; defining terms; providing  
9 exceptions to reading proficiency requirements;  
10 requiring Service Oklahoma to approve forms;  
11 providing for codification; providing an effective  
12 date; and declaring an emergency.

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

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.515A of Title 70, unless  
16 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

17 A. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection A of  
18 Section 2 of this act, any person under the age of eighteen (18)  
19 years wishing to apply for a driver license or permit shall  
20 successfully demonstrate a satisfactory reading ability at the  
21 eighth-grade reading level by meeting the following criteria:

22 1. A student enrolled in a public school shall successfully  
23 complete the reading portion of the statewide assessment  
24 administered pursuant to Section 1210.508 of this title and that is  
offered in the eighth grade. Following the administration of this  
assessment in the eighth grade, any student not successfully  
completing the reading portion shall be assigned a plan of remedial  
reading. Any student not successful in completing the reading

1 portion of the state assessment may take a comparable alternative  
2 reading proficiency test in order to satisfy the criteria for a  
3 driver license or permit. Alternative reading proficiency tests  
4 shall be approved by the State Department of Education. Subsequent  
5 successful completion of an alternative reading proficiency test  
6 shall serve to satisfy any retake requirement for the reading  
7 portion of the state assessment in the eighth grade in the Oklahoma  
8 School Testing Program. School districts shall notify, in writing,  
9 each student who takes the reading portion of the state assessment  
10 for the eighth grade or who takes an alternative reading proficiency  
11 test and the student's parent or legal guardian of the results. If  
12 the student fails to perform satisfactorily on the test, the notice  
13 shall inform the student of the reading proficiency driver license  
14 requirement and the school's remediation plan for the student. Upon  
15 the student's successful completion of the test, the school shall  
16 furnish the student with the documentation needed for the driver  
17 license application in Oklahoma;

18 2. Unless alternatively documented according to the provisions  
19 of subsection C of this section, students under the age of eighteen  
20 (18) years shall successfully complete a reading proficiency test  
21 approved by the State Department of Education; and

22 3. Any student who wishes to apply for a restricted license to  
23 operate a motorcycle may take an alternative reading proficiency  
24 test, subject to the provisions of this section.

1       B. Alternative reading proficiency tests shall be offered by  
2 testing sites, which shall include the public schools at least four  
3 times per calendar year, and may include any of the following which  
4 choose to participate: the technology center school districts,  
5 Regional Education Service Centers, colleges, accredited private  
6 schools, and other sites approved by the State Department of  
7 Education. A student may take the test as often as wished, subject  
8 to the provisions of this section. Testing sites shall provide the  
9 first alternative reading proficiency test for each student at no  
10 cost. Students may be assessed a fee not to exceed Twenty-five  
11 Dollars (\$25.00) by the testing site for each subsequent alternative  
12 reading proficiency test taken.

13       C. A school district shall provide for alternative  
14 documentation of reading proficiency for the purposes of paragraph 2  
15 of subsection A of Section 2 of this act for any student with an  
16 Individualized Education Program (IEP) that, at a minimum, is in an  
17 area related to reading. The alternative documentation shall be  
18 furnished to such student who is performing satisfactorily in  
19 reading pursuant to the Individualized Education Program of the  
20 student. Parents of disabled students educated pursuant to the  
21 provisions of Section 4 of Article XIII of the Oklahoma Constitution  
22 may satisfy the requirement of paragraph 2 of subsection A of  
23 Section 2 of this act by signing an affidavit that, based upon their  
24 best information and belief, their child would qualify for an

1 Individualized Education Program that, at a minimum, is in an area  
2 related to reading if enrolled in public school, and that in their  
3 judgment their child is performing satisfactorily in reading and is  
4 therefore academically qualified to satisfy the requirement of  
5 paragraph 2 of subsection A of Section 2 of this act.

6 D. Any person under the age of eighteen (18) who has previously  
7 completed and successfully passed a reading proficiency test from  
8 another state may submit the results of such test to the State  
9 Department of Education for verification and approval. The State  
10 Department of Education shall have thirty (30) days from receipt of  
11 the reading proficiency results submitted by the person to verify  
12 that the reading proficiency requirements from the other state are  
13 equivalent or comparable to the reading proficiency requirements  
14 established for Oklahoma students pursuant to this section. Upon  
15 verification and approval by the State Department of Education, the  
16 Department shall furnish the person with the documentation needed  
17 for the driver license application in Oklahoma. If the reading  
18 proficiency documentation submitted by the person is disapproved by  
19 the Department, the person may take an alternative reading  
20 proficiency test as provided for in subsection B of this section.

21 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 6-107.8 of Title 47, unless  
23 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:  
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1       A. Service Oklahoma shall deny a license, restricted license,  
2 or instruction permit for the operation of a motor vehicle to any  
3 person under eighteen (18) years of age who does not, at the time of  
4 application, present documentation that such person:

5       1. Is a student enrolled in a public or private secondary  
6 school, including any technology center school, of this state or any  
7 other state;

8       2. Has received a diploma or certificate of completion issued  
9 to the person from a secondary school of this state or any other  
10 state;

11       3. Is enrolled and making satisfactory progress in a program  
12 leading to a certificate of high school equivalency issued by the  
13 State Department of Education, or has obtained such certificate;

14       4. Is excused from such requirement pursuant to a lawful excuse  
15 as defined in subsection G of this section or due to circumstances  
16 beyond the control of the person; or

17       5. Is excused from such requirement pursuant to subsection C of  
18 this section; and

19       6. Has successfully passed the criterion-referenced reading  
20 test required for all eighth grade students or an alternative  
21 reading proficiency test approved by the State Department of  
22 Education, pursuant to the provisions of Section 1 of this act,  
23 demonstrating reading proficiency at the eighth-grade reading level,  
24 unless such student is excused from such requirement pursuant to the

1 provisions of Section 1 of this act. Provided, during the summer  
2 months when school is not in regular session, as established by the  
3 school district pursuant to Section 1-109 of Title 70 of the  
4 Oklahoma Statutes, a person under eighteen (18) years of age may  
5 satisfy the documentation requirement of this subsection by  
6 providing a notarized written statement from and signed by the legal  
7 custodial parent or legal guardian of the person to Service Oklahoma  
8 stating that the person completed the immediately previous school  
9 year and is enrolled or intends to enroll for the immediately  
10 subsequent school year.

11 B. 1. A person under eighteen (18) years of age who is  
12 receiving education by other means, including education at home  
13 pursuant to Section 4 of Article XIII of the Oklahoma Constitution,  
14 shall satisfy the documentation requirement of paragraphs 1, 2, 3,  
15 4, and 5 of subsection A of this section by providing a written  
16 statement from and signed by the legal custodial parent or legal  
17 guardian of the person to Service Oklahoma stating that the person  
18 is receiving instruction by other means pursuant to Section 4 of  
19 Article XIII of the Oklahoma Constitution.

20 2. Any person who falsifies the information required in such  
21 documentation, upon conviction, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

22 C. 1. A person under eighteen (18) years of age who does not  
23 meet the requirements of paragraphs 1 through 3 of subsection A of  
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1 this section or the requirements of subsection B of this section may  
2 retain or be issued a driver license if:

- 3 a. the person is employed at least twenty-four (24) hours  
4 per week, and
- 5 b. the employer of the person verifies the employment on  
6 a form prescribed by Service Oklahoma.

7 2. Any person who has retained or been issued a driver license  
8 pursuant to this subsection who leaves such employment shall have  
9 fifteen (15) days from the date of termination of employment to  
10 provide verification of employment from a new employer.

11 3. Any employer who falsifies a verification of employment  
12 shall be subject to an administrative fine of not more than Fifty  
13 Dollars (\$50.00), to be assessed by Service Oklahoma.

14 D. 1. School district attendance officers, upon request, shall  
15 provide a documentation of enrollment status form, established and  
16 approved by Service Oklahoma, to any person under eighteen (18)  
17 years of age who is properly enrolled in a school for which the  
18 attendance officer is responsible, for presentation to Service  
19 Oklahoma upon application for or reinstatement of an instruction  
20 permit, restricted license, or license to operate a motor vehicle.

21 2. Except as provided in subsection E of this section, whenever  
22 a person over fourteen (14) years of age and under eighteen (18)  
23 years of age, who has a driver license or permit issued by Service  
24 Oklahoma, withdraws from school, the attendance officer shall notify



1 Service Oklahoma of such withdrawal through a documentation of  
2 enrollment status form.

3 3. Within fifteen (15) working days of the receipt of such  
4 notice, Service Oklahoma shall provide written notice to the person,  
5 by first class, postage prepaid mail, that the driver license of the  
6 person will be canceled thirty (30) days following the date the  
7 notice to the person was sent, unless documentation of compliance  
8 with the provisions of this section is received by Service Oklahoma  
9 before such time. After the thirty-day period, Service Oklahoma  
10 shall cancel the driving privileges of the person.

11 E. When the withdrawal from school of a person under eighteen  
12 (18) years of age is:

13 1. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the person;

14 2. Pursuant to any lawful excuse; or

15 3. For the purpose of transfer to another school, including  
16 education at home pursuant to Section 4 of Article XIII of the  
17 Oklahoma Constitution, as confirmed in writing by the legal  
18 custodial parent or legal guardian of the person,  
19 no notice as required by subsection D of this section shall be sent  
20 to Service Oklahoma, or, if sent, such notice shall be disregarded  
21 by Service Oklahoma. If the person is applying for a driver  
22 license, restricted driver license, or instruction permit, the  
23 attendance officer shall provide the person with documentation to  
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1 present to Service Oklahoma to excuse the person from the  
2 requirements of this section.

3 F. Every school district shall, upon request, provide  
4 documentation of reading proficiency for any person under eighteen  
5 (18) years of age enrolled in such school district by certifying  
6 passage of a reading examination pursuant to the provisions of  
7 Section 1 of this act.

8 G. As used in this section:

9 1. "Withdrawal" means more than ten (10) consecutive days, or  
10 parts of days, of unexcused absences or fifteen (15) days, or parts  
11 of days, total unexcused absences during a single semester;

12 2. "Lawful excuse" means absence from school pursuant to any  
13 valid physical or mental illness or pursuant to any legal excuse as  
14 provided in Section 10-105 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes;  
15 provided, however, the meaning of such term shall not include  
16 marriage;

17 3. "Circumstances beyond the control of the person" shall not  
18 include marriage, suspension, or expulsion from school, or  
19 imprisonment in a jail, penitentiary, or other correctional  
20 institution;

21 4. "Documentation of enrollment status form" means the document  
22 established and approved by Service Oklahoma to substantiate  
23 information concerning the eligibility of a person under eighteen  
24 (18) years of age to apply for or to retain a license or permit to

1 drive. Such documentation shall not include any information which  
2 is considered an education record pursuant to the Family Education  
3 Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C., Sections 1232g through 1232i,  
4 unless compliance is made with the restrictions regarding disclosure  
5 of the information; and

6 5. "Documentation of reading proficiency" means information  
7 provided by a school authorized by subsection B of Section 1 of this  
8 act to certify the eligibility of a person under eighteen (18) years  
9 of age to apply for a license or permit based on passage of a  
10 reading proficiency test approved by the State Department of  
11 Education, or pursuant to the alternative documentation criteria  
12 provided in subsection C of Section 1 of this act. Such  
13 documentation shall not include any information which is considered  
14 an education record pursuant to the Family Education Rights and  
15 Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C., Sections 1232g through 1232i, unless  
16 compliance is made with the restrictions regarding disclosure of the  
17 information.

18 H. The provisions of this section shall be inapplicable with  
19 respect to any person under eighteen (18) years of age upon whom  
20 rights of majority have been conferred pursuant to Sections 91  
21 through 94 of Title 10 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

22 I. Service Oklahoma shall establish and approve documentation  
23 forms and certificates required by this section for use by school  
24 districts to comply with the provisions of this section. Upon

1 establishment and approval of such forms and certificates, Service  
2 Oklahoma shall notify each school district and the State Board of  
3 Education of the content thereof.

4 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2026.

5 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation  
6 of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby  
7 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and  
8 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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