

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 60th Legislature (2026)

3 HOUSE BILL 4153

By: Hasenbeck

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5

6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to driver licenses; creating a  
8 requirement to demonstrate an eighth grade reading  
9 level for minors to obtain a driver license;  
10 establishing criteria for satisfying reading tester  
11 requirements for a driver license for public school  
12 students; requiring students under eighteen to  
13 complete a reading proficiency test; requiring a plan  
14 of remedial reading if assessments are not  
15 successfully completed; providing an option for  
16 students to take alternative reading proficiency  
17 tests if the initial assessment is unsuccessful;  
18 allowing students to take an alternative reading test  
19 for motorcycle licenses; establishing alternative  
20 reading testing sites requirements; requiring school  
21 districts to provide alternative documentation of  
22 reading proficiency if applicable; establishing  
23 alternative documentation requirements; allowing  
24 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  
attendance officers to provide documentation;  
requiring attendance officers to notify the  
Department of Public Safety of certain student  
withdrawals; requiring notification of license

1 cancellation in certain circumstances; providing  
2 exceptions for notice requirements; requiring school  
3 districts to provide documentation of reading  
4 proficiency to certain enrolled students; defining  
5 terms; providing exceptions to reading proficiency  
6 requirements; requiring the Department of Public  
7 Safety to approve forms; providing for codification;  
8 providing an effective date; and declaring an  
9 emergency.

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

11 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified

12 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1210.515A of Title 70, unless  
13 there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

14 A. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection A of  
15 Section 6 of this act, any person under the age of eighteen (18)  
16 years wishing to apply for a driver license or permit shall  
17 successfully demonstrate a satisfactory reading ability at the  
18 eighth-grade reading level by meeting the following criteria:

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

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

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

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

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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 6 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 6 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 6 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:  
24

1       A. The Department of Public Safety shall deny a license,  
2 restricted license, or instruction permit for the operation of a  
3 motor vehicle to any person under eighteen (18) years of age who  
4 does not, at the time of application, present documentation that  
5 such person:

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

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

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

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

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

20           6. Has successfully passed the criterion-referenced reading  
21 test required for all eighth grade students or an alternative  
22 reading proficiency test approved by the State Department of  
23 Education, pursuant to the provisions of Section 5 of this act,  
24 demonstrating reading proficiency at the eighth-grade reading level,

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

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

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

23       C. 1. A person under eighteen (18) years of age who does not  
24 meet the requirements of paragraphs 1 through 3 of subsection A of

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 the Department of Public Safety.

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 the Department of Public Safety.

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

22 2. Except as provided in subsection E of this section, whenever  
23 a person over fourteen (14) years of age and under eighteen (18)  
24 years of age, who has a driver license or permit issued by the

1      Department of Public Safety, withdraws from school, the attendance  
2      officer shall notify the Department of Public Safety of such  
3      withdrawal through a documentation of enrollment status form.

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

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

15            1. Due to circumstances beyond the control of the person;  
16            2. Pursuant to any lawful excuse; or  
17            3. For the purpose of transfer to another school, including  
18     education at home pursuant to Section 4 of Article XIII of the  
19     Oklahoma Constitution, as confirmed in writing by the legal  
20     custodial parent or legal guardian of the person,  
21     no notice as required by subsection D of this section shall be sent  
22     to the Department of Public Safety, or, if sent, such notice shall  
23     be disregarded by the Department of Public Safety. If the person is  
24     applying for a driver license, restricted driver license, or

1 instruction permit, the attendance officer shall provide the person  
2 with documentation to present to the Department of Public Safety to  
3 excuse the person from the requirements of this section.

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

9 G. As used in this section:

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

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

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

22 4. "Documentation of enrollment status form" means the document  
23 established and approved by the Department of Public Safety to  
24 substantiate information concerning the eligibility of a person

1 under eighteen (18) years of age to apply for or to retain a license  
2 or permit to drive. Such documentation shall not include any  
3 information which is considered an education record pursuant to the  
4 Family Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C., Sections 1232g  
5 through 1232i, unless compliance is made with the restrictions  
6 regarding disclosure of the information; and

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

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

23       I. The Department of Public Safety shall establish and approve  
24 documentation forms and certificates required by this section for

1 use by school districts to comply with the provisions of this  
2 section. Upon establishment and approval of such forms and  
3 certificates, the Department of Public Safety shall notify each  
4 school district and the State Board of Education of the content  
5 thereof.

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

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

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