SENATE STAFF ANALYSIS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

(This document is based only on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

BILL: SB 1320

SPONSOR: Senator Carlton

SUBJECT: Driver's License Renewal

DATE: March 25, 1999   REVISED:

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Caridi	Meyer	TR	Favorable
2.			FP	
3.				
4.				
5.				

I. Summary:

This bill adds the requirement of a vision test to the renewal of a driver's license. Applicants must submit to the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, the results of a vision test taken no more than 12 months before the application for renewal is submitted. For telephonically or electronically renewed licenses, proof of a satisfactory vision test must be submitted to the department within 90 days of the renewal. The bill authorizes the department to suspend the driving privileges of licensees not submitting satisfactory vision results by the 90-day deadline.

This bill substantially amends section 322.18 of the Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Driving privileges can be renewed three ways; through a driver license office, by mail-in renewal, or through the department's telephone renewal process. Vision examination results are not routinely required for the renewal process involving mail-in or telephone services.

III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

The department would no longer be authorized to issue a driver license extension without requiring a vision test certificate. The certificate must indicate the applicant meets vision standards through a vision examination conducted within the previous 12 months. The department may issue license extension stickers to persons who submit vision test results within 90 days of the renewal request. The department is authorized to suspend the extended driving privileges if such results are not submitted within 90 days.

The department estimates 2,108,233 renewal applications in the fiscal year 1999-2000. Because Driver License Examiners will be required to administer the vision test, the department estimates an increase in walk-in renewals and a decrease in mail-in and telephonic renewals due to the

additional cost of fulfilling the requirement that a satisfactory vision test be submitted from an eye-care physician.

IV. Constitutional Issues:

A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

V. Economic Impact and Fiscal Note:

A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

B. Private Sector Impact:

Persons choosing to renew their driving privileges by phone or mail may incur the additional cost of a vision test from an eye-care physician.

C. Government Sector Impact:

The department projects an increase in walk-in renewals and the number of eye tests that will need to be administered. In 1997-1998, the department processed 720, 032 walk -in renewals. The department estimates a substantial increase in walk-in renewals from persons seeking to avoid the additional cost of an outside eye examination. To prevent a substantial increase in wait times from the additional walk-in applicants and the additional requirement of testing vision, the department estimates needing 69 additional persons and additional vision equipment. To process the estimated 676,435 vision certificates sent by mail-in or telephone renewals, the department estimates needing 7 Clerk Typist Specialists.

The estimated fiscal impact of the first year is $479,844 for additional equipment, data processing to adjust the software system, and the operational cost overheard for the addition 76 positions. The total recurring costs including salaries, benefits and expenses would be $2,896,453 in the first year (1999-2000) and $2,416,699 in the following years.

VI. Technical Deficiencies:

None.

VII.   Related Issues:

None.

VIII.   Amendments:

None.

This Senate staff analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's sponsor or the Florida Senate.