

By Senator Carlton

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A bill to be entitled  
An act relating to driver's license renewal;  
amending s. 322.18, F.S.; revising requirements  
for issuing license extensions; requiring an  
applicant for renewal to submit the results of  
a vision test; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 322.18, Florida  
Statutes, is amended to read:

322.18 Original applications, licenses, and renewals;  
expiration of licenses; delinquent licenses.--

(8) The department shall issue 4-year and 6-year  
license extensions by mail, electronic, or telephonic means  
~~without reexamination.~~

(a) If the department determines from its records that  
the holder of a license about to expire is eligible for  
renewal, the department shall mail a renewal notice to the  
licensee at his or her last known address, not less than 30  
days prior to the licensee's birthday. The renewal notice  
shall direct the licensee to appear at a driver license office  
for in-person renewal or to transmit the completed renewal  
notice and the fees required by s. 322.21 to the department by  
mail, electronically, or telephonically within the 30 days  
preceding the licensee's birthday for a license extension.  
License extensions shall not be available to drivers directed  
to appear for in-person renewal.

(b) Upon receipt of a properly completed renewal  
notice and of a statement by a licensed ophthalmologist,  
optometrist, or physician, which is submitted on a form

1 provided by the department and certifies that a vision test  
2 performed within 12 months before the renewal date shows that  
3 the applicant's eyesight meets applicable standards, upon  
4 payment of the required fees, and upon determining that the  
5 licensee is still eligible for renewal, the department shall  
6 send a license extension sticker to the licensee to affix to  
7 the expiring license as evidence that the license term has  
8 been extended. If a request for renewal is submitted  
9 electronically or telephonically, a license extension sticker  
10 may be sent to the licensee if the results of the vision test  
11 are received by the department within 90 days. If those  
12 results are not received by the department within 90 days, the  
13 department must cancel the licensee's driving privilege until  
14 satisfactory results of the vision test are provided to the  
15 department.

16 (c) The department shall issue license extensions for  
17 two consecutive license expirations only. Upon expiration of  
18 two consecutive license extension periods, in-person renewal  
19 with reexamination as provided in s. 322.121 shall be  
20 required. A person who is out of this state when his or her  
21 license expires may be issued a 90-day temporary driving  
22 permit without reexamination. At the end of the 90-day period,  
23 the person must either return to this state or apply for a  
24 license where the person is located, except for a member of  
25 the Armed Forces as provided in s. 322.121(6).

26 ~~(d) In-person renewal at a driver license office shall~~  
27 ~~not be available to drivers whose records indicate they were~~  
28 ~~directed to apply for a license extension.~~

29 (d)(e) Any person who knowingly possesses any forged,  
30 stolen, fictitious, counterfeit, or unlawfully issued license  
31 extension sticker, unless possession by the ~~such~~ person has

1 | been duly authorized by the department, commits a misdemeanor  
2 | of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or  
3 | s. 775.083.

4 |       (e)~~(f)~~ The department shall develop a plan for the  
5 | equitable distribution of license extensions and renewals and  
6 | the orderly implementation of this section.

7 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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SENATE SUMMARY

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Revises requirements for applying for driver's license  
extensions. Provides that the results of a vision test  
that was taken within 12 months before the application  
for renewal must be submitted with a renewal request.  
Provides that if such a request is granted telephonically  
or electronically, the licensee must submit satisfactory  
results of a vision test to the Department of Highway  
Safety and Motor Vehicles within 90 days after the  
renewal. Allows the department to suspend the licensee's  
driving privilege until the results have been submitted  
if the 90-day deadline is not met.

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