

By the Committee on Transportation; and Senators Wise and Lynn

306-1917-03

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A bill to be entitled
An act relating to driver's licenses; amending
s. 322.18, F.S.; requiring vision tests for
certain applicants for license renewal;
prohibiting those applicants from renewing by
telephone or electronic means; requiring the
department to study the effects of aging on
driving ability; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Effective January 1, 2004, subsection (5)
of section 322.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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

(5) All renewal driver's licenses may be issued after
the applicant licensee has been determined to be eligible by
the department.

(a) A licensee who is otherwise eligible for renewal
and who is over 79 years of age:

1. Must submit to and pass a vision test administered
at any driver's license office; or

2. If the licensee applies for an extension by mail as
provided in subsection (8), must submit to a vision test
administered by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
chapter 459, or an optometrist licensed under chapter 463, or
an optician licensed under part I of chapter 484, must send
the results of that test to the department on a form obtained
from the department and signed by such health care
practitioner, and must meet vision standards that are
equivalent to the standards for passing the departmental

1 vision test. The physician, optometrist, or optician may
2 submit the results of a vision test by a department-approved
3 electronic means.

4 (b) A licensee who is over 79 years of age may not
5 submit an application for extension under subsection (8) by
6 electronic or telephonic means, unless the results of a vision
7 test have been electronically submitted in advance by the
8 physician, optometrist, or optician.

9 Section 2. (1) The Department of Highway Safety and
10 Motor Vehicles shall study the effects of aging on driving
11 ability. The purpose of the study is to develop a
12 comprehensive approach to licensing drivers.

13 (2) Issues to be studied by the department shall
14 include the:

15 (a) Effective and efficient identification of drivers
16 at risk of being involved in a motor vehicle accident because
17 of functional limitations that effect their driving ability;

18 (b) Prevalence and effect of degenerative processes
19 affecting vision, mobility, cognitive functions and reaction
20 time;

21 (c) Implementation and effect of the department's
22 vision screening requirements and examination of new
23 technologies;

24 (d) Availability and effectiveness of remedial
25 measures such as skills training, adaptive equipment, physical
26 therapy and adjustment of driving practices that will allow
27 people to drive safely for as long as possible;

28 (e) Availability of alternative forms of
29 transportation for people who can no longer safely drive; and

30 (f) Effectiveness of existing public education
31 initiatives relating to at-risk drivers.

1 (3) The department shall report the results of the
2 study to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the
3 House of Representatives by February 1, 2004. The report shall
4 include findings of the study and recommendations for
5 improving the safety of at-risk drivers.

6 (4) The department shall appoint an advisory council
7 to participate in the study and to advise the department on
8 issues related to older at-risk drivers on an ongoing basis.
9 The council shall be known as the Florida At-Risk Driver
10 Council. Members of the council shall include representatives
11 of organizations involved with issues facing older drivers
12 including state agencies, medical professionals, senior
13 citizen advocacy groups, providers of services to senior
14 citizens, and research entities.

15 Section 3. Except as otherwise expressly provided in
16 this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

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18 STATEMENT OF SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES CONTAINED IN
19 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
20 Senate Bill 52

21 The CS provides if applying for a driver's license extension
22 by mail, a person over the age of 79 must submit to a vision
23 test administered by a licensed physician, optometrist or
24 optician who must send the results of the tests to the
25 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) via
26 electronic means. The CS further requires the DHSMV to study
27 the effects of aging on driving ability and report the
28 findings and recommendation of the study to the Legislature by
29 February 1, 2004. The CS provides an effective date of January
30 1, 2004.
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