

By the Committees on Health, Aging, and Long-Term Care;
Transportation; and Senators Wise and Lynn

317-2040-03

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

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

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

14 322.18 Original applications, licenses, and renewals;
15 expiration of licenses; delinquent licenses.--

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

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

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

23 2. If the licensee applies for an extension by mail as
24 provided in subsection (8), must submit to a vision test
25 administered by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
26 chapter 459, or an optometrist licensed under chapter 463,
27 must send the results of that test to the department on a form
28 obtained from the department and signed by such health care
29 practitioner, and must meet vision standards that are
30 equivalent to the standards for passing the departmental
31 vision test. The physician or optometrist may submit the

1 results of a vision test by a department-approved electronic
2 means.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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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 CS/SB 52

21 The Committee Substitute differs from CS/SB 52 in the
22 following ways:

23 An optician is not authorized to perform the required vision
24 test.

25 The study of the effects of aging on driving ability conducted
26 by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles must
27 include hearing as one of the subjects studied.