



HB 0633

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CHAMBER ACTION

The Committee on Transportation recommends the following:

Committee Substitute

Remove the entire bill and insert:

A bill to be entitled

An act relating to driver 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; creating the Florida At-Risk Driver Council to participate in the study and to advise the department on issues related to older at-risk drivers; providing effective dates.

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

Section 1. Subsection (5) of section 322.18, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

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



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

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

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

34 2. If the licensee applies for an extension by mail as
35 provided in subsection (8), must submit to a vision test
36 administered by a physician licensed under chapter 458 or
37 chapter 459 or an optometrist licensed under chapter 463, must
38 send the results of that test to the department on a form
39 obtained from the department and signed by such health care
40 practitioner, and must meet vision standards that are equivalent
41 to the standards for passing the departmental vision test. The
42 physician or optometrist may submit the results of a vision test
43 by a department approved electronic means.

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

49 Section 2. The Department of Highway Safety and Motor
50 Vehicles shall study the effects of aging on driving ability.
51 The purpose of the study is to develop a comprehensive approach
52 to licensing drivers.

53 (1) Issues to be studied by the department shall include:



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54 (a) Effective and efficient identification of drivers at
55 risk of being involved in a motor vehicle crash because of
56 functional limitations that affect their driving ability.

57 (b) Prevalence and effect of degenerative processes
58 affecting vision, mobility, cognitive functions, and reaction
59 time.

60 (c) Implementation and effect of the department's vision
61 screening requirements and examination of new technologies.

62 (d) Availability and effectiveness of remedial measures
63 such as skills training, adaptive equipment, physical therapy,
64 and adjustment of driving practices that will allow people to
65 drive safely for as long as possible.

66 (e) Availability of alternative forms of transportation
67 for people who can no longer safely drive.

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

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

75 (3) The department shall appoint an advisory council to
76 participate in the study and to advise the department on issues
77 related to older at-risk drivers on an ongoing basis. The
78 council shall be known as the Florida At-Risk Driver Council.
79 Members of the council shall include representatives of
80 organizations involved with issues facing older drivers,
81 including state agencies, medical professionals, senior citizen



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82 | advocacy groups, providers of services to senior citizens, and
83 | research entities.

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85 | This section shall take effect upon this act becoming a law.

86 | Section 3. Except as otherwise provided herein, this act

87 | shall take effect January 1, 2004.