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Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

March 21, 2017

**S. 201**

Introduced by Senators McElveen, Campbell, McLeod, Talley and Gregory

S. Printed 3/21/17--S.

Read the first time January 10, 2017.

**THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION**

To whom was referred a Bill (S. 201) to amend Section 56-1-140(a) of the 1976 Code, relating to driver’s licenses, to change the validity of a driver’s license from ten years to, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56‑1‑87. (A) A person may hold only one Department of Motor Vehicles‑issued credential at a time. A REAL ID card may be a driver’s license or identification card but not both.

(B) The department may issue a compliant or non‑compliant card. The department may issue a REAL ID compliant credential only to a person who:

(1) presents all supporting documents required for a compliant credential, or

(2) has previously presented proper supporting documents and the department has retained copies of those documents.

(C) The department shall issue a non-compliant credential to a person who opts not to have a REAL ID card and meets the other requirements necessary to obtain a non-compliant credential.”

SECTION 2. Section 56‑1‑85 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 70 of 2007, is amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑85. ~~The State shall not participate in the implementation of the federal REAL ID Act.~~

It is hereby declared to be the policy of this State:

(1) The State is committed to the continuing effort of enhancing the security, authentication, and issuance procedure standards of its driver’s licenses and identification cards and of meeting all requirements of the Federal REAL ID Act of 2005 (P.L. 109‑13) and accompanying regulations.

(2) The department shall enable qualifying citizens to obtain state driver’s licenses and identification cards that are in compliance with the REAL ID Act.”

SECTION 3. Section 56‑1‑90 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑90. The Department of Motor Vehicles may require every applicant to submit for identification purposes proof of name, Social Security number, and date and place of birth when applying for a driver’s license. An applicant for a driver’s license, driver’s permit, or special identification card or a renewal thereof may sufficiently prove the existence and validity of his Social Security number, for purposes of Section 14‑7‑130, by any ~~reasonably reliable~~ document ~~containing the Social Security number~~ considered reliable by the Department of Motor Vehicles. Such a document includes, but is not limited to, an official Social Security card, Social Security check, Social Security form SSA‑1099, letter from the Social Security Administration, voter registration card, payroll stub, or Federal W‑2 form~~, or U.S. military identification card~~. The numbers may also be obtained from the Department of Revenue pursuant to Section 12‑54‑240(B)(7) which permits the Department of Revenue to submit taxpayer Social Security numbers to the Department of Motor Vehicles and to the State Election Commission.

~~For purposes of this section, when a licensee is applying for a replacement license, the Department of Motor Vehicles must accept an affidavit as evidence that the licensee has established the existence and validity of his Social Security number at the time of the original license application. The driver’s license number of a person may be his Social Security number.~~

This section does not prevent issuance of a driver’s license or identification card to a foreign exchange student participating in a valid foreign exchange program.”

SECTION 4. Section 56‑1‑140 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 275 of 2016, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑140. (A) Upon payment of a fee of ~~twelve dollars and fifty cents for a license that is valid for five years, or~~ twenty‑five dollars for a license that is valid for ~~ten~~ eight years, the ~~Department of Motor Vehicles~~ department shall issue to every qualified applicant a driver’s license as applied for by law. The license must bear on it a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the full name, date of birth, residence address, a brief description and laminated colored photograph of the licensee, any marking otherwise required or in compliance with law, and a facsimile of the signature of the licensee~~, or a space upon which the licensee shall write his usual signature with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license~~. No license is valid until it has been so signed by the licensee. The license authorizes the licensee to operate only those classifications of vehicles as indicated on the license.

(B) An applicant for a new, renewed, or replacement ~~South Carolina~~ driver’s license may apply to the ~~Department of Motor Vehicles~~ department to obtain a veteran designation on the front of his driver’s license by providing~~:~~

~~(1)~~ a United States Department of Defense discharge certificate, also known as a DD Form 214, form 4, that shows a characterization of service, or discharge status of ‘honorable’ or ‘general under honorable conditions’ and establishes the person’s qualifying military service in the United States Armed Forces~~; and~~

~~(2)~~ ~~payment of a one dollar fee that must be collected by the department and placed by the Comptroller General into the State Highway Fund as established by Section 57‑11‑20, to be distributed as provided in Section 11‑43‑167~~.

The ~~Department of Motor Vehicles~~ department may determine the appropriate form of the veteran designation on the driver’s license authorized pursuant to this section.

(C) The fees collected pursuant to this section must be credited to the Department of Transportation State Non‑Federal Aid Highway Fund.”

SECTION 5. Section 56‑1‑210 of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑210. (A) ~~A license issued or renewed before October 1, 2003, expires on the licensee’s birth date on the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued.~~ A license issued or renewed on or after October 1, ~~2003,~~ 2017 expires on the licensee’s birth date on the ~~tenth~~ eighth calendar year in which it is issued. ~~When a person who is sixty‑five years of age or older renews his license, the license shall expire five years from the date it was issued.~~

(B) A license is renewable on or before its expiration date upon application and the payment of the required fee.

(C) The ~~Department of Motor Vehicles~~ department may renew a driver’s license of a resident by mail or electronically upon payment of the required fee, if the renewal is a digitized license.

(D) ~~A license may not be renewed until the licensee is reexamined as provided in Section 56‑1‑130, except that the licensee is not required to take the road test provided in Section 56‑1‑130; provided, further, that only the vision screening is required of those persons who have no more than five points for moving traffic violations in the two years prior to making application for renewal.~~ For cause shown, the department may require the submission by the applicant of evidence satisfactory to the department of the applicant’s mental and physical fitness to drive and his knowledge of traffic laws and regulations. If the evidence is not satisfactory to the department, the department may require an examination of the applicant as upon an original application. Parallel parking is not required as a part of the driver’s test.

(E) If a person’s license expires and he is unable to renew it before its expiration date because he is on active military duty outside this State for a continuous period of at least thirty days immediately before the expiration date or because he is the spouse or dependent living for a continuous period of at least thirty days immediately before the expiration date with a person on active military duty outside this State, within sixty days after returning to this State, the person may renew his license in the manner permitted by this section as though the license had not expired. The department may require proof from the person that he qualifies for renewal of his license under this paragraph. Upon request, the person shall provide the department with a copy of his military service record, a document of his branch of military service showing the date of active military duty outside the State, or other evidence presented by the person showing the dates of service.”

SECTION 6. Section 56‑1‑220 of the 1976 Code, as last amended by Act 275 of 2016, is further amended to read:

“Section 56‑1‑220. (A) ~~Vision screenings are required for all persons before having their licenses renewed by the Department of Motor Vehicles.~~ The department shall require vision screening for all persons obtaining an initial license. The vision screening may be waived upon the submission of a certificate of vision examination dated within the previous twelve months from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state.

(B) ~~During the fifth year of a ten‑year license, the licensee must submit by mail to the department a certificate from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state or appear in person at a department office to complete a vision screening. If a licensee fails to submit a certificate or fails to appear in person, the licensee must be fined fifty dollars. The department shall waive the fine if the person completes the requirements of this section within ninety days after the end of the fifth year of a ten‑year license. This fine must be placed by the Comptroller General into the State Highway Fund as established by Section 57‑11‑20, to be distributed as provided in Section 11‑43‑167.~~

~~(C)~~ ~~A vision screening will not be required before October 1, 2008, if a licensee is less than sixty‑five years of age, his license expires on his birth date on the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued, and his license is renewed for an additional five years by mail or electronically. If a licensee is sixty‑five years of age or older and his license expires on his birth date on the fifth calendar year after the calendar year in which it is issued, then he may renew his license by mail for an additional five years upon submission of a certificate of vision examination from an ophthalmologist or optometrist licensed in any state.~~

~~(D)~~ The renewal license forms distributed by the department must be designed to contain a certification that the vision of the person screened meets the minimum standards required by the department or have been corrected to meet these requirements if a screening is required. The certification must be executed by the person conducting the screening. The minimum standards of the department shall not require a greater degree of vision than 20/40 corrected in one eye. Persons using bioptic lenses must adhere to the provisions contained in Section 56‑1‑222.

~~(E)~~(C) A person whose vision is corrected to meet the minimum standards shall have the correction noted on his driver’s license by the department.

~~(F)~~(D) It is unlawful for a person whose vision requires correction in order to meet the minimum standards of the department to drive a motor vehicle in this State without the use of the correction.

~~(G)~~(E) Unless otherwise provided in this section, any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than one hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days.”

SECTION 7. The Department of Motor Vehicles is authorized to expend $1.7 million in the current fiscal year (2016-2017) from its existing cash balances to begin implementing the provisions of this act once it becomes effective.

SECTION 8. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

LAWRENCE K. GROOMS for Committee.

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 56-1-140(A) OF THE 1976 CODE, RELATING TO DRIVER’S LICENSES, TO CHANGE THE VALIDITY OF A DRIVER’S LICENSE FROM TEN YEARS TO EIGHT YEARS TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL REAL ID ACT OF 2005; TO AMEND ARTICLE 1, CHAPTER 1, TITLE 56, RELATING TO GENERAL PROVISIONS FOR DRIVER’S LICENSES, BY ADDING SECTION 56-1-86 TO DIRECT THE GOVERNOR TO TAKE ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE FEDERAL REAL ID ACT OF 2005; AND TO REPEAL SECTION 56-1-85, RELATING TO THE FEDERAL REAL ID ACT OF 2005.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 56-1-140(A) of the 1976 Code is amended to read:

“Section 56-1-140. (A) Upon payment of a fee of twelve dollars and fifty cents for a license that is valid for five years, or twenty-five dollars for a license that is valid for ~~ten~~ eight years, the Department of Motor Vehicles shall issue to every qualified applicant a driver's license as applied for by law. The license must bear on it a distinguishing number assigned to the licensee, the full name, date of birth, residence address, a brief description and laminated colored photograph of the licensee, and a facsimile of the signature of the licensee, or a space upon which the licensee shall write his usual signature with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license. No license is valid until it has been so signed by the licensee. The license authorizes the licensee to operate only those classifications of vehicles as indicated on the license.”

SECTION 2. Article 1, Chapter 1, Title 56 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 56-1-86. The Governor is hereby directed to take all actions necessary to implement the requirements of the federal Real ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302 and any accompanying regulations.”

SECTION 3. Section 56-1-85 of the 1976 Code is repealed.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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