

CHAPTER 284.

[S. B. 76.]

MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATORS' LICENSES

AN ACT relating to motor vehicles; amending section 55, chapter 188, Laws of 1937 as amended by section 2, chapter 221, Laws of 1953, and RCW 46.20.120; amending section 57, chapter 188, Laws of 1937 as amended by section 1, chapter 151, Laws of 1943 and RCW 46.20.130; and amending section 1, chapter 26, Laws of 1943 as amended by section 1, chapter 23, Laws of 1953 and RCW 46.20.150.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Washington:

SECTION 1. Section 55, chapter 188, Laws of 1937 as amended by section 2, chapter 221, Laws of 1953 and RCW 46.20.120 are each amended to read as follows:

RCW 46.20.120
amended.

No new vehicle operator's license shall be issued and no previously issued license shall be renewed until the applicant therefor has submitted to and qualified by a vehicle operator's examination: *Provided*, That the director may waive the examination of any person applying for the renewal of an operator's license issued under the laws of this state, except when the director has reason to believe that an applicant for an operator's license is not qualified to hold an operator's license under this act. For an original examination a fee of two dollars shall be paid by each applicant, in addition to the fee charged for issuance of his license. A new license shall be one issued to an operator who has not been previously licensed in this state or to an operator whose last previous Washington license expired over four years prior to date of application.

New applicants to be examined—
Fee—New license, defined.

SEC. 2. Section 57, chapter 188, Laws of 1937, as amended by section 1, chapter 151, Laws of 1943 and RCW 46.20.130 are each amended to read as follows:

RCW 46.20.130
amended.

The director shall prescribe the content of the vehicle operator's license examination and the man-

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ducted.

ner of conducting the examination, which shall include:

(1) A test of the applicant's eyesight, his ability to understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic, and his knowledge of the traffic laws of this state;

(2) An actual demonstration of his ability to operate a motor vehicle in such a manner as not to jeopardize the safety of persons or property; and

(3) Such further examination as the director deems necessary (a) to determine whether any facts exist which would bar the issuance of a vehicle operator's license under chapters 46.20, 46.24, and 46.28 RCW, and (b) to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely on the highways:

Provided, Bail forfeitures or warning tickets shall not be considered.

Vetoed.

RCW 46.20.150 amended.

SEC. 3. Section 1, chapter 26, Laws of 1943 as amended by section 1, chapter 23, Laws of 1953 and RCW 46.20.150 are each amended to read as follows:

Reexamination required in certain cases.

Whenever the director has reasonable cause to believe, that the holder of a motor vehicle operator's license is or has become a faulty and unsafe driver of a motor vehicle or may become such because of physical, mental, or other defects, he may require the licensee to submit to a reexamination as to his qualifications to operate a motor vehicle. Reexamination authority may be delegated by the director to license examining officers at various examining stations of anyone deemed a faulty or unsafe driver as described above.

The director may require persons within certain age groups to be reexamined periodically if accident and violation reports in the department or in the state patrol indicate a disproportionate percentage of unsafe drivers in such age groups.

Subject to the provisions of section 1 of this act and except as provided in this section, the holders of

valid motor vehicle operators' licenses shall not be required to be reexamined.

Should any licensee be dissatisfied with any decision of the director or other officer specified in this section he shall have the right to appeal therefrom to the superior court of Thurston county, or at his option to the superior court of the county of his residence.

Passed the Senate February 23, 1959.

Passed the House March 10, 1959.

Approved by the Governor March 24, 1959, with the exception of a certain unnumbered item of subsection (3) of section 2, which is vetoed.

NOTE: Excerpt of Governor's veto message reads as follows:

"Senate Bill No. 76 is an enactment clarifying the power of the Director of Licenses with reference to the issuance of vehicle operators' licenses.

Veto message,
excerpt.

"The Director is required to examine applicants for licenses as to their eyesight, their knowledge of traffic laws and as to their ability to operate a motor vehicle. I am in sympathy with the provisions of this bill. The unnumbered item of section 2, subsection (3) of this act reads as follows:

"* * * PROVIDED, Bail forfeitures or warning tickets shall not be considered."

"The Washington State Patrol, the Department of Licenses and the Attorney General have requested me to veto the unnumbered item because bail forfeiture and warning tickets on many occasions may relate to serious moving violations and the number of such violations may be so numerous as to warrant the Director of Licenses not to issue a driver's license to the offending party.

"I am in agreement with these views. By striking the item, it is left to the discretion of the Director whether or not bail forfeitures and warning tickets are so serious or so numerous as to warrant denial of license.

"For the foregoing reasons, the unnumbered item is vetoed and the remainder of the bill is approved."

ALBERT D. ROSELLINI,
Governor.