

HOUSE BILL NO. 206

INTRODUCED BY YOUNKIN

BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT INCREASING AND CHANGING THE DISPOSITION OF FEES FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES AND DUPLICATE LICENSES; REQUIRING A BIENNIAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE ~~ON FEE MONEY PLACED IN THE MONTANA HIGHWAY PATROL OFFICERS' RETIREMENT PENSION TRUST FUND~~; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-5-111, 61-5-114, AND 61-5-121, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

Section 1. Section 61-5-111, MCA, is amended to read:

"61-5-111. Contents of a driver's license, renewal, renewal by mail, license expirations, grace period, and fees for licenses, permits, and endorsements -- notice of expiration. (1) The department may appoint county treasurers and other qualified officers to act as its agents for the sale of driver's licenses receipts, ~~and~~ The department shall ~~make~~ adopt necessary rules governing sales. In areas in which the department provides driver licensing services 3 days or more a week, the department is responsible for sale of receipts and may, ~~in its discretion,~~ appoint an agent to sell receipts.

(2) (a) The department, upon receipt of payment of the fees specified in this section, shall issue a driver's license to each qualifying applicant. The license must contain:

(i) a full-face photograph of the licensee in the size and form prescribed by the department;

(ii) a distinguishing number issued to the licensee;

(iii) the full legal name, date of birth, Montana mailing address, and a brief description of the licensee;

and

(iv) either the licensee's customary signature or a digital reproduction of the licensee's customary signature.

(b) The department may not use the licensee's social security number as the distinguishing number unless the licensee expressly authorizes the use. A license is not valid until it is signed by the licensee.

(3) (a) When a person applies for renewal of a driver's license, the department shall conduct a records

1 check in accordance with 61-5-110(1) to determine the applicant's eligibility status and shall test the applicant's
2 eyesight. The department may also require the applicant to submit to a knowledge and skills test if:

3 (i) the renewal applicant has a physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs, or may
4 impair, the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle
5 on the highway; and

6 (ii) the expired or expiring license does not include adaptive equipment or operational restrictions
7 appropriate to the applicant's functional abilities; or

8 (iii) the applicant wants to remove or modify the restrictions stated on the expired or expiring license.

9 (b) In the case of a commercial driver's license, the department may also require that the applicant
10 successfully complete a written examination as required by federal regulations.

11 (c) A person is considered to have applied for renewal of a Montana driver's license if the application
12 is made within 6 months before or 3 months after the expiration of the person's license. Except as provided in
13 subsection (3)(d), a person seeking to renew a driver's license shall appear in person at a Montana driver's
14 examination station.

15 (d) (i) A person may renew a driver's license by mail if the person certifies that the person is temporarily
16 out of state and will not be returning to the state prior to the expiration of the license.

17 (ii) An applicant who renews a driver's license by mail shall submit to the department an approved vision
18 examination and a medical evaluation from a licensed physician in addition to the fees required for renewal.

19 (iii) If the department does not have a digitized photograph or signature record of the renewal applicant
20 from the expiring license, then the department may require the renewal applicant to submit a personal
21 photograph and signature that meets the requirements prescribed by the department.

22 (iv) The term of a license renewed by mail is 4 years, and a person may not renew by mail for
23 consecutive license terms.

24 (v) The department may not renew a license by mail if the records check conducted in accordance with
25 61-5-110(1) shows an ineligible license status for the applicant.

26 (e) The department shall mail a driver's license renewal notice no earlier than 60 days and no later than
27 30 days prior to the expiration date of a commercial driver's license if the licensee has previously submitted a
28 written request for the notice, either at the time of initial application or of renewal of the license.

29 (4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), a license expires on the anniversary of the
30 licensee's birthday 8 years or less after the date of issue or on the licensee's 75th birthday, whichever occurs

1 first.

2 (b) A license issued to a person who is 75 years of age or older expires on the anniversary of the
3 licensee's birthday 4 years or less after the date of issue.

4 (c) A license issued to a person who is under 21 years of age expires on the licensee's 21st birthday.

5 (5) Whenever the department issues an original license to a person under the age of 18 years, the
6 license must be designated and clearly marked as a "provisional license". Any license designated and marked
7 as provisional may be suspended by the department for a period of not more than 12 months when its records
8 disclose that the licensee, subsequent to the issuance of the license, has been guilty of careless or negligent
9 driving.

10 (6) Fees for driver's licenses are:

11 (a) driver's license, except a commercial driver's license -- ~~\$4~~ \$6 ~~\$5~~ a year or fraction of a year;

12 (b) motorcycle endorsement -- 50 cents a year or fraction of a year;

13 (c) commercial driver's license:

14 (i) interstate -- \$5 a year or fraction of a year;

15 (ii) intrastate -- \$3.50 a year or fraction of a year.

16 (7) Upon receipt of notice from another jurisdiction that a person licensed under this chapter has
17 surrendered a Montana driver's license to that jurisdiction, the department shall change the license status on
18 the person's official driver record to "inactive". If the person returns to Montana prior to the expiration of the
19 previously surrendered license, the department may reactivate the license for the remainder of the license term."

20

21 **Section 2.** Section 61-5-114, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"61-5-114. Duplicate licenses.** ~~In the event that~~ If an instruction permit or driver's license issued under
23 the provisions of this chapter is lost or destroyed, the person to whom ~~the same~~ it was issued may, upon the
24 payment of a fee of ~~\$5~~ \$10, obtain a duplicate or substitute ~~thereof~~ permit or license, upon furnishing proof
25 satisfactory to the department that ~~such~~ the permit or license has been lost or destroyed."

26

27 **Section 3.** Section 61-5-121, MCA, is amended to read:

28 **"61-5-121. Disposition of fees.** (1) The disposition of the fees from driver's licenses, motorcycle
29 endorsements, commercial driver's licenses, and duplicate driver's licenses provided for in 61-5-114 is as
30 follows:

(a) The amount of ~~16.7%~~ ~~32.6%~~ 22.3% of each driver's license fee and ~~25%~~ ~~22.46%~~ 25% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into an account in the state special revenue fund. The department shall transfer the funds from this account to the Montana highway patrol officers' retirement pension trust fund as provided in 19-6-404. The department shall report the amount deposited and transferred under this subsection (1)(a) and the current balance in the Montana highway patrol officers' retirement pension trust fund to the legislative finance committee by October 31 of the year preceding each regular session of the legislature.

(b) (i) If the fees are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 2.5% of each driver's license fee and 3.75% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into the county general fund.

(ii) If the fees are collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(b)(i) must be deposited into the state general fund.

(c) (i) If the fee is collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 3.34% of each motorcycle endorsement must be deposited into the county general fund.

(ii) If the fee is collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(c)(i) must be deposited into the state general fund.

(d) The amount of ~~26.25%~~ ~~17.5%~~ 20.7% of each driver's license fee and ~~8.75%~~ ~~4.31%~~ 8.75% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into the state traffic education account.

(e) In addition to the amounts deposited pursuant to subsections (1)(b)(ii) and (1)(c)(ii), the amount of ~~54.55%~~ ~~47.40%~~ 54.5% of each driver's license fee and ~~62.5%~~ ~~69.48%~~ 62.5% of each duplicate driver's license fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(f) If the fee is collected by the county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of 2.5% of each commercial driver's license fee must be deposited into the county general fund, otherwise all of the fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(g) The amount of 63.46% of each motorcycle endorsement fee must be deposited into the state motorcycle safety account in the state special revenue fund, and the amount of 33.2% of each motorcycle endorsement fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

(2) (a) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and duplicate driver's licenses are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the county treasurer or agent shall deposit the amounts provided for in subsections (1)(b)(i) and (1)(c)(i) into the county general fund. The county treasurer or agent shall then remit to the department of revenue all remaining fees,

1 together with a statement indicating what portion of each fee is to be deposited into the account in the state
2 special revenue fund, as provided in subsection (1)(a), and the state general fund. The department of revenue,
3 upon receipt of the fees and statement, shall deposit the fees as provided in subsections (1)(a) and (1)(d)
4 through (1)(g).

5 (b) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and duplicate
6 driver's licenses are collected by the department, it shall remit all fees to the department of revenue, together
7 with a statement indicating what portion of each fee is to be deposited into the account in the state special
8 revenue fund as provided in subsection (1)(a), the state special revenue fund, and the state general fund. The
9 department of revenue, upon receipt of the fees and statement, shall deposit the fees as provided in subsections
10 (1)(a), (1)(b)(ii), (1)(c)(ii), and (1)(d) through (1)(g)."

11
12 **NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2003.

13 - END -