



1 (vi) if the applicant qualifies under subsection (7), indication of the applicant's status as a veteran;

2 (vii) on or after January 1, 2026, if the applicant is a citizen of the United States, an image of an  
3 eagle to signify the licensee's status as a United States citizen.

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

6 (3) (a) When a person applies for renewal of a driver's license, the department shall conduct a  
7 records check in accordance with 61-5-110(1) to determine the applicant's eligibility status and shall test the  
8 applicant's eyesight. The department may also require the applicant to submit to a knowledge and road or skills  
9 test if:

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

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

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

17 (b) In the case of a commercial driver's license, the department shall, if the information was not  
18 provided in a prior licensing cycle, require the renewal applicant to provide the name of each jurisdiction in  
19 which the applicant was previously licensed to drive any type of motor vehicle during the 10-year period  
20 immediately preceding the date of the renewal application and may also require that the applicant successfully  
21 complete a written examination as required by federal regulations.

22 (c) A person is considered to have applied for renewal of a Montana driver's license if the  
23 application is made within 6 months before or 1 year after the expiration of the person's license or if the person  
24 has applied for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license pursuant to 61-5-129. Except as provided in subsection  
25 (3)(d), a person seeking to renew a driver's license shall appear in person at a Montana driver's examination  
26 station.

27 (d) (i) Except as provided in subsections (3)(d)(iii) through (3)(d)(v), a person may renew a driver's  
28 license by mail or online.

1 (ii) An applicant who renews a driver's license by mail or online shall submit a completed  
2 application and the fees required for renewal.

3 (iii) If the department does not have a digitized photograph and signature record of the renewal  
4 applicant from the expiring license, then the renewal applicant shall apply in person.

5 (iv) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) and (4)(c), the term of a license renewed by mail or  
6 online is 12 years for a driver's license or 8 years for a REAL ID-compliant driver's license.

7 (v) The department may not renew a license by mail or online if:

8 (A) the records check conducted in accordance with 61-5-110(1) shows an ineligible license status  
9 for the applicant;

10 (B) the applicant holds a commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials endorsement, the  
11 retention of which requires additional testing and a security threat assessment under 49 CFR, part 1572;

12 (C) the applicant seeks a change of address, a change of date of birth, or a name change; or

13 (D) the applicant's license:

14 (I) has been expired for more than 1 year; or

15 (II) except as provided in subsection (3)(f), was renewed by mail or online at the time of the  
16 applicant's previous renewal.

17 (e) A renewal applicant who is stationed outside Montana on active military duty may renew the  
18 license by mail or online as long as the applicant is on active military duty.

19 (f) The spouse or a dependent of a renewal applicant who is stationed outside Montana on active  
20 military duty may renew the applicant's license by mail or online for one additional consecutive term following a  
21 renewal by mail or online.

22 (g) The department shall send electronically or mail a driver's license renewal notice no earlier  
23 than 120 days and no later than 30 days prior to the expiration date of a driver's license. The department shall  
24 send the notice to the licensee's Montana mailing address shown on the driver's license or, if requested by the  
25 licensee, provide the notice using an authorized method of electronic delivery, or both.

26 (4) (a) Except as provided in subsections (4)(b) through (4)(e), a license expires on the  
27 anniversary of the licensee's birthday 12 years or less after the date of issue or on the licensee's 75th birthday,  
28 whichever occurs first.

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

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

5 (d) (i) Except as provided in subsection (4)(d)(ii), a commercial driver's license expires on the  
6 anniversary of the licensee's birthday 4 years or less after the date of issue.

7 (ii) When a person obtains a Montana commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials  
8 endorsement after surrendering a comparable commercial driver's license with a hazardous materials  
9 endorsement from another licensing jurisdiction, the license expires on the anniversary of the licensee's  
10 birthday 4 years or less after the date of the issue of the surrendered license if, as reported in the commercial  
11 driver's license information system, a security threat assessment was performed on the person as a condition of  
12 issuance of the surrendered license.

13 (e) A license issued to a person who is a foreign national whose presence in the United States is  
14 temporarily authorized under federal law expires, as determined by the department, no later than the expiration  
15 date of the official document issued to the person by the bureau of citizenship and immigration services of the  
16 department of homeland security authorizing the person's presence in the United States.

17 (5) When the department issues a driver's license to a person under 18 years of age, the license  
18 must be clearly marked with a notation that conveys the restrictions imposed under 61-5-133.

19 (6) (a) Upon application for a driver's license or commercial driver's license and any combination of  
20 the specified endorsements, the following fees must be paid:

21 (i) driver's license, except a commercial driver's license -- \$5 a year or fraction of a year;

22 (ii) motorcycle endorsement -- 50 cents a year or fraction of a year;

23 (iii) commercial driver's license:

24 (A) interstate -- \$10 a year or fraction of a year; or

25 (B) intrastate -- \$8.50 a year or fraction of a year.

26 (b) A renewal notice for either a driver's license or a commercial driver's license is 50 cents.

27 (7) (a) Upon receiving a request from a person whose status as a veteran has been verified by the  
28 department of military affairs pursuant to 10-2-1301 and upon receiving the information and fees required in this

1 part, the department shall include the word "veteran" on the face of the license.

2 (b) After a person's status as a veteran is denoted on a driver's license, the department may not  
3 require further documentation of that status from the holder of the license upon subsequent renewal or  
4 replacement.

5 (8) (a) Except as provided in subsection (8)(b), an applicant may request a replacement driver's  
6 license online or by mail.

7 (b) If the department does not have a digitized photograph and signature record of the applicant,  
8 the applicant shall apply in person.

9 (c) The term of the replacement license must be the term of the applicant's current driver's license.

10 (9) (a) An applicant may request an expedited delivery service for a driver's license or identification  
11 card. The department shall set a fee for expedited delivery based on the cost of providing this service.

12 (b) The fees for expedited delivery must be deposited in the motor vehicle division administration  
13 account established in 61-3-112 and used for the purposes of expediting delivery, including actual costs for  
14 delivery, personnel, and related technology."  
15

16 **Section 2.** Section 61-12-501, MCA, is amended to read:

17 **"61-12-501. Authority of department to issue identification cards -- lawful presence verification.**

18 (1) The department may issue an identification card to any person who maintains a residence in this state and  
19 whose presence in the United States is authorized under federal law.

20 (2) On or after January 1, 2026, an identification card issued pursuant to this section to a citizen of  
21 the United States shall display an image of an eagle to signify the licensee's status as a United States citizen.

22 ~~(2)(3)~~ When an applicant who is not a citizen of the United States applies for an identification card,  
23 the department shall verify that the applicant is lawfully present in the United States by using the federal  
24 systematic alien verification for entitlements program.

25 ~~(3)(4)~~ A person may only have one nonvoided driver's license or identification card issued by the  
26 department at any time."  
27

28 - END -