

By: Representatives Martinson, Whittington

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 339

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-47, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 REQUIRE EVERY PERSON, UPON EACH RENEWAL OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE, TO
3 TAKE AND PASS A VISION SCREENING EXAMINATION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY
4 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. Section 63-1-47, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
7 amended as follows:

8 63-1-47. (1) Each applicant for an original license issued
9 pursuant to this article, who is entitled to issuance of same, and
10 who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be issued a
11 four-year license. Each license will expire at midnight on the
12 licensee's birthday.

13 (a) All renewal licenses of operators eighteen (18)
14 years of age or older shall be for four-year periods and may be
15 renewed any time within six (6) months before the expiration of
16 the license upon application and payment of the required fee,
17 unless required to be reexamined.

18 (b) Every person, upon each renewal of a driver's
19 license, and in addition to complying with all other requirements
20 for the renewal of a driver's license, must take and pass a vision
21 screening examination to be administered by the Department of
22 Public Safety. No additional fee shall be charged by the
23 department for administering such examination.

24 (c) From and after January 1, 1990, no commercial
25 driver's license shall be issued under the provisions of this
26 article for any commercial motor vehicle, the lawful operation of
27 which requires the driver to obtain a Class A, B or C commercial

28 driver's license under Article 2 of this chapter; however, from
29 time to time, the holder of a commercial license may apply for a
30 commercial driver's license under Article 2 of this chapter; and,
31 if he fails to pass the required test for such license, he shall
32 be entitled to an extension of his license that shall be valid for
33 one hundred twenty (120) days or until he again is tested under
34 Article 2 of this chapter, whichever occurs first. The extension
35 shall entitle the license holder to operate all vehicles which
36 such license authorized him to operate prior to taking the
37 required test. The first extension shall be without charge;
38 however, a fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) shall be imposed for
39 any subsequent extension. No extension shall be valid past March
40 31, 1992.

41 * * *

42 (2) Any commercial driver's license issued under this
43 article before January 1, 1990, which expires after March 31,
44 1992, shall be void on April 1, 1992, for the operation of any
45 commercial vehicle requiring a commercial license to be issued
46 under Article 2 of this chapter; however, if the holder of any
47 such license applies for a commercial driver's license under
48 Article 2 of this chapter, passes the required tests for such
49 license, pays all applicable fees under Article 2 of this chapter
50 except the Forty Dollars (\$40.00) license fee and otherwise meets
51 all requirements for the issuance of such license, then such
52 person shall be issued a license under Article 2 of this chapter
53 which shall expire on the expiration date of the commercial
54 driver's license being replaced.

55 * * *

56 (3) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall notify, by
57 United States mail addressed to the last known address of record
58 with the Department of Public Safety, all holders of commercial
59 driver's licenses issued under this article before January 1,
60 1990, and which expire after March 31, 1992, that such licenses

61 will be void on and after April 1, 1992, for the operation of any
62 vehicle for which a commercial driver's license is required to be
63 issued under Article 2 of this chapter.

64 (4) Any person holding a valid commercial driver's license
65 issued under this article before January 1, 1990, shall continue
66 thereafter, until expiration of such license, to be entitled to
67 operate all vehicles which such license authorized him to operate
68 immediately before January 1, 1990, except that from and after
69 April 1, 1992, such license shall not entitle the licensee to
70 operate a commercial motor vehicle the lawful operation of which
71 requires a commercial driver's license under Article 2 of this
72 chapter.

73 (5) Except as otherwise provided in this article, each
74 applicant for an original driver's license issued pursuant to this
75 article, who is entitled to issuance of same, being under eighteen
76 (18) years of age, shall be issued a one-year license which will
77 expire at midnight on the licensee's birthday. Renewal driver's
78 licenses of operators under the age of eighteen (18) shall be for
79 one-year periods and may be renewed any time within two (2) months
80 before the expiration of the license upon application and payment
81 of the required fee, unless required to be reexamined. An
82 intermediate license shall be valid for one (1) year from its date
83 of issue and may be renewed any time within fourteen (14) days
84 before expiration of the license. All applications by an operator
85 under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by
86 documentation that the applicant is in compliance with the
87 education requirements of Section 63-1-9(1)(g); the documentation
88 must be dated no more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of
89 application.

90 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
91 and after July 1, 2001.