To: Transportation

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION 2003

By: Representative Bailey

HOUSE BILL NO. 871

AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-47, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO REQUIRE EVERY PERSON SEVENTY YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER, UPON EACH RENEWAL OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE, EXCEPT UPON RENEWAL OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS, TO TAKE AND PASS A VISION SCREENING EXAMINATION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

63-1-47. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section, each applicant for an original license issued pursuant to this article, who is entitled to issuance of same, and who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be issued a four-year license which will expire at midnight on the licensee's birthday.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, all renewal licenses of operators eighteen (18) years of age or older shall be for four-year periods and may be renewed any time within six (6) months before the expiration of the license upon application and payment of the required fee, unless required to be reexamined.

(b) Every person seventy (70) years of age or older, upon each renewal of a driver's license, except upon renewal of a driver's license by electronic means as authorized under Section 63-1-35, in addition to complying with all other requirements for the renewal of a driver's license, must take and pass a vision screening examination to be administered by the Department of Public Safety. No additional fee shall be charged by the department for administering such examination.
(c) From and after January 1, 1990, no commercial driver's license shall be issued under the provisions of this article for any commercial motor vehicle, the lawful operation of which requires the driver to obtain a Class A, B or C commercial driver's license under Article 2 of this chapter; however, from time to time, the holder of a commercial license may apply for a commercial driver's license under Article 2 of this chapter; and, if he fails to pass the required test for such license, he shall be entitled to an extension of his license that shall be valid for one hundred twenty (120) days or until he again is tested under Article 2 of this chapter, whichever occurs first. The extension shall entitle the license holder to operate all vehicles which such license authorized him to operate prior to taking the required test. The first extension shall be without charge; however, a fee of Fifteen Dollars ($15.00) shall be imposed for any subsequent extension. No extension shall be valid past March 31, 1992.

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

(3) The fee for the issuance of an original and renewals of a Class D commercial driver's license under this article to an applicant who is not a United States citizen and who does not
possess a social security number issued by the United States
government and the period for which such license will be valid and
expire shall be as prescribed in Section 63-1-43.

(4) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall notify, by
United States mail addressed to the last known address of record
with the Department of Public Safety, all holders of a commercial
driver's license issued under this article before January 1, 1990,
and which expire after March 31, 1992, that such license will be
void on and after April 1, 1992, for the operation of any vehicle
for which a commercial driver's license is required to be issued
under Article 2 of this chapter.

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

(6) Except as otherwise provided in this article, each
applicant for an original driver's license issued pursuant to this
article, who is entitled to issuance of same, being under eighteen
(18) years of age, shall be issued a one-year license which will
expire at midnight on the licensee's birthday. Renewal drivers'
licenses of operators under the age of eighteen (18) shall be for
one-year periods and may be renewed any time within two (2) months
before the expiration of the license upon application and payment
of the required fee, unless required to be reexamined. An
intermediate license shall be valid for one (1) year from its date
of issue and may be renewed any time within fourteen (14) days
before expiration of the license. All applications by an operator
under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by
ST: Driver's license; require vision screening upon renewal by persons 70 years old or older.

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documentation that the applicant is in compliance with the
education requirements of Section 63-1-9(1)(g), and the
documentation must be dated no more than thirty (30) days prior to
the date of application.

(7) Any license issued under this article to a person who is
not a United States citizen and who does not possess a social
security number issued by the United States government shall
expire one (1) year from the date of issuance and may be renewed,
if such person is otherwise qualified to renew such license,
within thirty (30) days of expiration. The fee for any such
license and for renewal shall be as prescribed in Section 63-1-43.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from
and after July 1, 2003.