

By: Representatives McKnight, Busby

To: Transportation

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 971

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-49, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
2 INCREASE THE TIME PERIOD DURING WHICH AN EXPIRED DRIVER'S LICENSE
3 MAY BE RENEWED WITHOUT EXAMINATION; TO PROVIDE THAT THE DEPARTMENT
4 OF PUBLIC SAFETY SHALL BE THE STATE AGENCY WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR
5 REGULATING CERTAIN DIGITAL WALLETS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

7 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-1-49, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
8 amended as follows:

9 63-1-49. (1) An expired license issued pursuant to this
10 article may be renewed at any time within * * * sixty (60) months
11 after the expiration date of the license upon application and
12 payment of the required fee, and the payment of a delinquent fee
13 prescribed in Section 63-1-43, in lieu of a driver examination,
14 unless the holder of the expired license is required to be
15 examined, or unless the department has reason to believe the
16 licensee is no longer qualified to receive a license.

17 (2) (a) Any person in the Armed Services of the United
18 States, who holds a valid license issued pursuant to this chapter
19 and is out of state due to military service at the time the



20 license expires, may renew the license by mail or by online
21 renewal services while out of state due to military service or at
22 any time within ninety (90) days after being discharged from
23 military service or upon returning to the state without payment of
24 any delinquent fee or examination, unless the department has
25 reason to believe that the licensee is no longer qualified to
26 receive a license. The person shall make proof by affidavit of
27 the fact of the person's current military service or of the time
28 of discharge or return. The expiration of the license of a
29 military person under the provisions of this paragraph (a) shall
30 not affect the validity of the license, but the license shall
31 continue to be valid and permit the person to operate a motor
32 vehicle in this state for a period of ninety (90) days after
33 discharge from military service or return to the state or until
34 renewal of the license, whichever occurs first.

35 (b) The provisions of paragraph (a) of this subsection
36 (2) also apply to a dependent of a person in the Armed Services of
37 the United States who is out of state due to military service if
38 the dependent resides out of state with the Armed Services member
39 and the license of the dependent expires during the family
40 member's absence from the state. The Commissioner of Public
41 Safety may adopt such rules and regulations under the
42 Administrative Procedures Act as may be necessary to implement the
43 provisions of this paragraph.



44 (3) Any person holding a valid license issued pursuant to
45 this article who is going overseas for two (2) to four (4) years
46 and whose license will expire during the stay overseas may renew
47 the license for four (4) years or eight (8) years before leaving.
48 The person shall make proof by affidavit of the fact of the
49 overseas travel.

50 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Public Safety shall be the
51 state agency with responsibility for regulating a digital wallet
52 for state agency credentials. The Commissioner of Public Safety
53 may promulgate rules and regulations regarding such digital wallet
54 technology.

55 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
56 and after July 1, 2022.

