

By: Representative Martinson

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 351

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,
3 EXCEPT UPON RENEWAL OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE BY ELECTRONIC MEANS, TO
4 TAKE AND PASS A VISION SCREENING EXAMINATION TO BE ADMINISTERED BY
5 THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

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

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

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

20 (b) Every person, upon each renewal of a driver's
21 license, except upon renewal of a driver's license by electronic
22 means as authorized under Section 63-1-35, in addition to
23 complying with all other requirements for the renewal of a
24 driver's license, must take and pass a vision screening
25 examination to be administered by the Department of Public Safety.
26 No additional fee shall be charged by the department for
27 administering such examination.

28 (c) From and after January 1, 1990, no commercial
29 driver's license shall be issued under the provisions of this
30 article for any commercial motor vehicle, the lawful operation of
31 which requires the driver to obtain a Class A, B or C commercial
32 driver's license under Article 2 of this chapter; however, from
33 time to time, the holder of a commercial license may apply for a
34 commercial driver's license under Article 2 of this chapter; and,
35 if he fails to pass the required test for such license, he shall
36 be entitled to an extension of his license that shall be valid for
37 one hundred twenty (120) days or until he again is tested under
38 Article 2 of this chapter, whichever occurs first. The extension
39 shall entitle the license holder to operate all vehicles which
40 such license authorized him to operate prior to taking the
41 required test. The first extension shall be without charge;
42 however, a fee of Fifteen Dollars (\$15.00) shall be imposed for
43 any subsequent extension. No extension shall be valid past March
44 31, 1992.

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

58 (3) The fee for the issuance of an original and renewals of
59 a Class D commercial driver's license under this article to an
60 applicant who is not a United States citizen and who does not

61 possess a social security number issued by the United States
62 government and the period for which such license will be valid and
63 expire shall be as prescribed in Section 63-1-43.

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

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

81 (6) Except as otherwise provided in this article, each
82 applicant for an original driver's license issued pursuant to this
83 article, who is entitled to issuance of same, being under eighteen
84 (18) years of age, shall be issued a one-year license which will
85 expire at midnight on the licensee's birthday. Renewal drivers'
86 licenses of operators under the age of eighteen (18) shall be for
87 one-year periods and may be renewed any time within two (2) months
88 before the expiration of the license upon application and payment
89 of the required fee, unless required to be reexamined. An
90 intermediate license shall be valid for one (1) year from its date
91 of issue and may be renewed any time within fourteen (14) days
92 before expiration of the license. All applications by an operator
93 under the age of eighteen (18) must be accompanied by

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

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

105 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
106 and after July 1, 2005.