

By: Representative Thompson

To: Transportation

HOUSE BILL NO. 118

1 AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION 63-1-35, MISSISSIPPI CODE OF 1972, TO
 2 SPECIFY THE REQUIRED AND OPTIONAL IDENTIFYING INFORMATION TO BE
 3 INCLUDED ON DRIVER'S LICENSES ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING
 4 THE OPTION TO INDICATE THE LICENSEE'S BLOOD TYPE IF MEDICAL
 5 DOCUMENTATION VERIFYING SUCH IS PRESENTED AT THE TIME OF LICENSE'S
 6 ISSUANCE; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

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

8 **SECTION 1.** Section 63-1-35, Mississippi Code of 1972, is
 9 amended as follows:

10 63-1-35. (1) (a) The Commissioner of Public Safety shall
 11 prescribe the form of license issued pursuant to this article
 12 which shall, among other features, include a driver's license
 13 number assigned by the Department of Public Safety. A licensee
 14 shall list his social security number with the department which
 15 shall cross reference the social security number with the driver's
 16 license number for purposes of identification. Additionally, each
 17 license shall bear a full-face color photograph of the licensee in
 18 such form that the license and the photograph cannot be separated.
 19 The photograph shall be taken so that one (1) exposure will
 20 photograph the applicant and the application simultaneously on the



21 same film. The department shall use a process in the issuance of
22 a license with a color photograph that shall prevent as nearly as
23 possible any alteration, counterfeiting, duplication,
24 reproduction, forging or modification of the license or the
25 superimposition of a photograph without ready detection. The
26 photograph shall be replaced by the department at the time of
27 renewal. Drivers' licenses, including photographs appearing
28 thereon, may be renewed by electronic means according to rules and
29 regulations promulgated by the commissioner in conformity to
30 Section 27-104-33.

31 (b) In addition to the information required for
32 applications for license or permit under paragraph (a) of this
33 section, the commissioner:

34 (i) Shall require specific identifying information
35 to be indicated on the front face of driver's licenses by the
36 department at the time of issuance, including, but not limited to,
37 the licensee's:

- 38 1. Date of birth;
- 39 2. Sex;
- 40 3. Race;
- 41 4. Natural eye color;
- 42 5. Natural hair color;
- 43 6. Weight;
- 44 7. Height;
- 45 8. Address of residence; and



46 (ii) Shall authorize any licensee who, in his or
47 her discretion, desires to have included on the reverse side of
48 his or her driver's license an indication of:

49 1. A preference to be an organ donor; or

50 2. The specification of his or her blood
51 type, provided that at the time of issuance or renewal of the
52 license, medical documentation is presented verifying the
53 licensee's blood type.

54 (2) The commissioner shall prescribe the form of license
55 issued pursuant to this article to licensees who are not United
56 States citizens and who do not possess a social security number
57 issued by the United States government. The license of such
58 persons shall include a number and/or other identifying features.

59 (3) Any new, renewal or duplicate driver's license,
60 temporary driving permit or commercial driver's license issued to
61 a person required to register as a sex offender pursuant to
62 Section 45-33-25 shall bear a designation identifying the licensee
63 or permittee as a sex offender.

64 (4) The commissioner is authorized to provide the new,
65 renewal or duplicate driver's license, temporary driving permit or
66 commercial driver's license to any honorably discharged veteran as
67 defined in Title 38 of the United States Code, and such license or
68 permit shall exhibit the letters "Vet" or any other mark
69 identifying the person as a veteran. The veteran requesting the
70 "Vet" designation shall present his DD-214, Military Retiree



71 Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans Affairs
72 Medical Identification Card, United States Department of Veterans
73 Affairs Identification Card or National Guard Form NGB 22. The
74 veteran requesting the "Vet" designation may present his DD-214,
75 Military Retiree Identification Card, United States Department of
76 Veterans Affairs Medical Identification Card, United States
77 Department of Veterans Affairs Identification Card or National
78 Guard Form NGB 22 in person at the Mississippi Department of
79 Public Safety Driver's License Station.

80 (5) Not later than July 1, 2021, the commissioner shall
81 develop and implement a driver's license or driving permit in
82 electronic format as an additional option for license or permit
83 holders. Acceptable electronic formats include display of
84 electronic images on a cellular phone or any other type of
85 electronic device.

86 (6) If false documents are provided by an individual for
87 purposes of obtaining a veteran driver's license, such action
88 shall be considered fraudulent use of identity under Section
89 97-19-85, Mississippi Code of 1972, and shall be punishable, upon
90 conviction, as a felony pursuant to the provisions of that
91 section.

92 **SECTION 2.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
93 and after July 1, 2024.

