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HOUSE BILL NO. 275

INTRODUCED BY E. STAFMAN, B. EDWARDS, M. LEE, P. STRAND, B. CLOSE, S. FYANT, J. WEBER, A. GRIFFITH, M. CUNNINGHAM, S. ROSENZWEIG, T. RUNNING WOLF, M. FOX, C. KEOGH, C. POPE, D.

JOY

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A DRIVING PRIVILEGE CARD; ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY, THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE, AND THE REQUIRED CONTENT FOR A DRIVING PRIVILEGE CARD; PROVIDING FOR THE VOIDING AND REVOCATION OF A DRIVING PRIVILEGE CARD; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF FEES FOR A DRIVING PRIVILEGE CARD; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AMENDING SECTIONS 61-5-104, 61-5-105, 61-5-110, 61-5-116, 61-5-121, 61-5-201, 61-5-203, 61-5-204, 61-11-503, AND 61-14-201, MCA; AND PROVIDING A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Driving privilege card -- eligibility.** (1) (a) As used in [sections 1 through 5] and except as provided in subsections (1)(b) and (1)(c), "driving privilege card" means an identification card that conveys permission to operate a motor vehicle.

(b) A motorcycle endorsement is necessary to operate a motorcycle.

(c) A driving privilege card may not be used to operate a commercial motor vehicle.

(2) A person who is ineligible for a driver's license under 61-5-105(10) is eligible for a driving privilege card.

(3) (a) Except as provided in subsection (3)(b), a driving privilege card expires 2 years after issuance.

(b) A driving privilege card issued to a person who is 19 or 20 years of age expires on the person's 21st birthday.

(4) A driving privilege card may not be issued to a person:

(a) whose license or driving privilege is currently suspended, revoked, or canceled, or who is

1 disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle in this or any state, as evidenced by an ineligible status  
2 report from the national driver register, established under 49 U.S.C. 30302, or from the commercial driver's  
3 license information system, established under 49 U.S.C. 31309;

4 (b) who is addicted to the use of alcohol or narcotic drugs;

5 (c) who has previously been adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from a mental disability or  
6 disease and who, at the time of application, has not been restored to competency by the methods provided by  
7 law;

8 (d) who is required by this chapter to take an examination;

9 (e) who has not deposited proof of financial responsibility when required under the provisions of  
10 Title 61, chapter 6;

11 (f) who lacks the functional ability, due to a physical or mental disability or limitation, to safely  
12 operate a motor vehicle on the highway; or

13 (g) who has a condition characterized by lapse of consciousness or control, either temporary or  
14 prolonged, that is or may become chronic. However, the department may, in its discretion, issue a license to an  
15 otherwise qualified person suffering from a condition if the afflicted person's attending physician, licensed  
16 physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102, attests in writing that the  
17 person's condition has stabilized and would not be likely to interfere with that person's ability to operate a motor  
18 vehicle safely.

19 (5) A person may not be discriminated against on the basis of holding or presenting a driving  
20 privilege card.

21  
22 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Application for driving privilege card.** (1) Each application for a driving  
23 privilege card must be made on a form furnished by the department and be accompanied by the proper fee as  
24 provided by rule.

25 (2) Each application must include the applicant's proof of identity, including full legal name, date of  
26 birth, and sex, and the applicant's proof of Montana residence.

27 (3) An applicant may establish proof of identity with one of the following documents:

28 (a) a birth certificate;

- 1 (b) a marriage license;
- 2 (c) a valid identification issued by Montana or another state; or
- 3 (d) a valid passport issued by a foreign country.

4 (4) An applicant may establish proof of residence with any two of the following documents:

- 5 (a) a lease;
- 6 (b) a bill;
- 7 (c) a school document;
- 8 (d) a medical document;
- 9 (e) an employment document;
- 10 (f) a faith-based document, including but not limited to baptismal or marriage records;
- 11 (g) an insurance document;
- 12 (h) a certificate of title;
- 13 (i) a change of address confirmation issued by the United States postal service; or
- 14 (j) a financial institution record.

15 (5) A person may not be discriminated against on the basis that the person applied for, was  
16 denied, or was issued a driving privilege card.

17 (6) Disclosure of records related to driving privilege cards is governed by Title 61, chapter 11, part  
18 5.

19 (7) Each applicant must be examined pursuant to 61-5-110.

20  
21 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Content of driving privilege card.** A driving privilege card must contain:

- 22 (1) a full-face photograph of the person issued the card, in the size and form prescribed by the  
23 department;
- 24 (2) a distinguishing number issued to the person by the department;
- 25 (3) the person's full legal name, date of birth, and Montana residence address, unless the person  
26 requests the use of the person's mailing address;
- 27 (4) a brief description of the person;
- 28 (5) either the person's customary manual signature or a reproduction of the person's customary

1 manual signature;

2 (6) the issuance date and the expiration date of the driving privilege card;

3 (7) any endorsements or restrictions applicable to the person; and

4 (8) spaces for indicating whether the person has executed:

5 (a) a document under 72-17-201 of intent to make a gift of all or part of the driver's body under the  
6 Uniform Anatomical Gift Act; or

7 (b) a declaration under 50-9-103 relating to the use of life-sustaining treatment.

8

9 NEW SECTION. Section 4. Administration of driving privilege card. County treasurers or other  
10 qualified officers appointed by the department pursuant to 61-5-111 must be the department's agents for the  
11 sale of driving privilege receipts.

12

13 NEW SECTION. Section 5. Revocation of driving privilege card. If the possessor of a driving  
14 privilege card is in removal proceedings or has been ordered removed from the United States, the driving  
15 privilege card is void and may be revoked by the motor vehicle division.

16

17 **Section 6.** Section 61-5-104, MCA, is amended to read:

18 **"61-5-104. Exemptions.** (1) The following persons are exempt from licensure under this chapter:

19 (a) a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States while operating a motor  
20 vehicle owned by or leased to the United States government and being operated on official business;

21 (b) a person who is a member of the armed forces of the United States on active duty in Montana  
22 who holds a valid license issued by another state and the spouse of the person who holds a valid license  
23 issued by another state;

24 (c) a person on active duty in the armed forces of the United States and in immediate possession  
25 of a valid license issued to that person in a foreign country by the armed forces of the United States, for a  
26 period of 45 days from the date of the person's return to the United States;

27 (d) a person who temporarily drives, operates, or moves a road machine, farm tractor, as defined  
28 in 61-9-102, or implement of husbandry for use in intrastate commerce on a highway;

1 (e) a person who is a locomotive engineer, assistant engineer, conductor, brake tender, railroad  
2 utility person, or other member of the crew of a railroad locomotive or train being operated upon rails, including  
3 operation on a railroad crossing a public street, road, or highway. A person employed as described in this  
4 subsection (1)(e) is not required to display a driver's license to a law enforcement officer in connection with the  
5 operation of a railroad train within Montana.

6 (f) a person who temporarily drives, operates, or moves an off-highway vehicle on a forest  
7 development road in this state, as defined in 61-8-110, that has been designated and approved for off-highway  
8 vehicle use by the United States forest service if the person:

9 (i) is under 16 years of age but at least 12 years of age; and

10 (ii) at the time of driving, operating, or moving the off-highway vehicle, has in the person's  
11 possession a certificate showing the successful completion of an off-highway vehicle safety education course  
12 approved by the department of fish, wildlife, and parks and is in the physical presence of a person who  
13 possesses a license issued under this chapter.

14 (2) A nonresident who is at least 15 years of age and who is in immediate possession of a valid  
15 operator's license issued to the nonresident by the nonresident's home state or country may operate a motor  
16 vehicle, except a commercial motor vehicle, in this state.

17 (3) (a) A nonresident who is in immediate possession of a valid commercial driver's license issued  
18 to the nonresident by the nonresident's home jurisdiction, in accordance with the licensing and testing  
19 standards of 49 CFR, part 383, may operate a commercial motor vehicle in this state.

20 (b) For the purpose of this chapter, "jurisdiction" means a state, territory, or possession of the  
21 United States, the District of Columbia, a province or territory of Canada, or the federal district of Mexico.

22 (4) A nonresident who is at least 18 years of age, whose home state or country does not require  
23 the licensing of operators, may operate a motor vehicle as an operator only, for a period of not more than 90  
24 days in any calendar year, if the motor vehicle is registered in the home state or country of the nonresident.

25 (5) (a) A driver's license issued under this chapter to a person who enters the United States armed  
26 forces, if valid and in effect at the time that the person enters the service, continues in effect so long as the  
27 service continues, unless the license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled for a cause as provided by law, and  
28 for up to 90 days following the date on which the licensee is honorably separated from the service.

1 (b) A person serving in the United States armed forces may renew the person's driver's license at  
 2 any point of the person's service, and any renewed license continues in effect as long as the service continues,  
 3 unless the license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled for a cause as provided by law.

4 (c) A person serving in the United States armed forces may apply for a Montana driver's license  
 5 upon meeting the requirements in 61-5-103, and this license continues in effect as long as the service  
 6 continues, unless the license is suspended, revoked, or cancelled for a cause as provided by law, and for up to  
 7 90 days following the date on which the licensee is honorably separated from the service.

8 (6) A person who is in immediate possession of a driving privilege card issued by this state or  
 9 another state may operate a motor vehicle in this state."

10

11 **Section 7.** Section 61-5-105, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"61-5-105. Who may not be licensed.** The department may not issue a license under this chapter to  
 13 a person:

14 (1) who is under 16 years of age unless:

15 (a) the person is at least 15 years of age and has passed a driver's education course approved by  
 16 the department and the superintendent of public instruction; or

17 (b) the person is at least 13 years of age and, because of individual hardship, to be determined by  
 18 the department, needs a restricted license;

19 (2) whose license or driving privilege is currently suspended, revoked, or canceled, except as  
 20 provided in 61-5-232, or who is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle in this or any state, as  
 21 evidenced by an ineligible status report from the national driver register, established under 49 U.S.C. 30302, or  
 22 from the commercial driver's license information system, established under 49 U.S.C. 31309;

23 (3) who is addicted to the use of alcohol or narcotic drugs;

24 (4) who has previously been adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or  
 25 disease and who, at the time of application, has not been restored to competency by the methods provided by  
 26 law;

27 (5) who is required by this chapter to take an examination;

28 (6) who has not deposited proof of financial responsibility when required under the provisions of

1 chapter 6 of this title;

2 (7) who has any condition characterized by lapse of consciousness or control, either temporary or  
 3 prolonged, that is or may become chronic. However, the department may, in its discretion, issue a license to an  
 4 otherwise qualified person suffering from a condition if the afflicted person's attending physician, licensed  
 5 physician assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, as defined in 37-8-102, attests in writing that the  
 6 person's condition has stabilized and would not be likely to interfere with that person's ability to operate a motor  
 7 vehicle safely and, if a commercial driver's license is involved, the person is physically qualified to operate a  
 8 commercial motor vehicle under applicable state or federal regulations.

9 (8) who lacks the functional ability, due to a physical or mental disability or limitation, to safely  
 10 operate a motor vehicle on the highway;

11 (9) who is not a resident of or domiciled in Montana except as provided in 61-5-103(3); or

12 (10) whose presence in the United States is not authorized under federal law. When an applicant  
 13 who is not a citizen of the United States applies for a driver's license, the department shall verify that the  
 14 applicant is lawfully present in the United States by using the federal systematic alien verification for  
 15 entitlements program. The department may not accept a driver's license issued by another state as proof that  
 16 an applicant is lawfully present in the United States under federal law. A person who is ineligible for a driver's  
 17 license under this subsection (10) is eligible for a driving privilege card under [section 1]."  
 18

19 **Section 8.** Section 61-5-110, MCA, is amended to read:

20 **"61-5-110. Records check of applicants -- examination of applicants -- cooperative driver**  
 21 **testing programs -- reciprocal agreement with foreign country.** (1) Prior to examining an applicant for a  
 22 driver's license or a driving privilege card, the department shall conduct a check of the applicant's driving record  
 23 by querying the national driver register, established under 49 U.S.C. 30302, and the commercial driver's license  
 24 information system, established under 49 U.S.C. 31309.

25 (2) (a) The department shall examine each applicant for a driver's license, ~~or~~ motorcycle  
 26 endorsement, or driving privilege card, except as otherwise provided in this section. The examination must  
 27 include a test of the applicant's eyesight, a knowledge test examining the applicant's ability to read and  
 28 understand highway signs and the applicant's knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, and, except as

1 provided in 61-5-118, a road test or a skills test demonstrating the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and  
2 reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor vehicle or motorcycle. The road test or skills test must be  
3 performed by the applicant in a motor vehicle that the applicant certifies is representative of the class and type  
4 of motor vehicle for which the applicant is seeking a license or endorsement.

5 (b) The knowledge test, road test, or skills test may be waived by the department:

6 (i) upon certification of the applicant's successful completion of the test by a certified cooperative  
7 driver testing program as provided in subsection (4) or by a certified third-party commercial driver testing  
8 program as provided in 61-5-118; or

9 (ii) in accordance with a driver's license reciprocity agreement between the department and a  
10 foreign country.

11 (c) The skills test may be waived by the department upon the applicant's completion of the  
12 requirements of 61-5-123.

13 (3) The department shall, pursuant to administrative rule authority granted in 61-14-202(4), (5),  
14 and (6), conduct records checks prior to processing a nonexempt commercial driver's license application and  
15 prior to renewing, transferring, or upgrading a commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit, and  
16 shall act in conformity with the legislative direction provided in 61-14-202(5) and (6) upon receiving results from  
17 records checks. The department shall implement the administrative rules on or before January 1, 2024.

18 (4) The department is authorized to certify as a cooperative driver testing program any state-  
19 approved high school traffic education course offered by or in cooperation with a school district that employs an  
20 approved instructor who has current endorsement from the superintendent of public instruction as a teacher of  
21 traffic education or any motorcycle safety training course approved by the board of regents and that employs an  
22 approved instructor of motorcycle safety training and who agrees to:

23 (a) administer standardized knowledge and road tests or skills tests required by the department to  
24 students participating in the district's high school traffic education courses or motorcycle safety training courses  
25 approved by the board of regents;

26 (b) certify the test results to the department; and

27 (c) comply with regulations of the department, the superintendent of public instruction, and the  
28 board of regents.



1           (5)     (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, an applicant who has a driver's license issued by  
2 another jurisdiction that is currently valid or expired for less than 1 year may surrender that license for a  
3 Montana license of the same class, type, and endorsement upon payment of the required fees and successful  
4 completion of a vision examination. In addition, an applicant surrendering a commercial driver's license issued  
5 by another jurisdiction shall successfully complete any examination required by federal regulations before being  
6 issued a commercial driver's license by the department.

7           (b)     The department may require an applicant who surrenders a driver's license or driving privilege  
8 card issued by another jurisdiction that is currently valid or expired for less than 1 year to submit to a knowledge  
9 and road or skills test if:

10           (i)     the applicant has a physical or mental disability, limitation, or condition that impairs, or may  
11 impair, the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a motor  
12 vehicle on the highway; and

13           (ii)    the surrendered license or card does not include readily discernible adaptive equipment or  
14 operational restrictions appropriate to the applicant's functional abilities; or

15           (iii)   the applicant wants to remove or modify a restriction imposed on the surrendered license.

16           (c)     When a license or card from another jurisdiction is surrendered, the department shall notify the  
17 issuing agency from the other jurisdiction that the applicant has surrendered the license or card. If the applicant  
18 wants to retain the license or card from another jurisdiction for identification or other nondriving purposes, the  
19 department shall place a distinctive mark on the license or card, indicating that the license or card may be used  
20 for nondriving purposes only, and return the marked license or card to the applicant.

21           (6)     The department may enter into a reciprocity agreement with a foreign country to provide for the  
22 mutual recognition and exchange of a valid driver's license or driving privilege card issued by this state or the  
23 foreign country if the department determines that the licensing standards of the foreign country are comparable  
24 to those of this state. The agreement may not include the reciprocal exchange of a commercial driver's license."  
25

26           **Section 9.** Section 61-5-116, MCA, is amended to read:

27           **"61-5-116. License to be carried and exhibited on demand.** (1) A licensee must have the  
28 licensee's driver's license in the licensee's immediate possession at all times when operating a motor vehicle

1 and shall display the license upon demand of a justice of the peace, a city or municipal judge, a peace officer, a  
2 highway patrol officer, or a field deputy or inspector of the department. However, a person charged with  
3 violating this section may not be convicted if the person produces in court or the office of the arresting officer a  
4 driver's license issued to the person and valid at the time of the person's arrest.

5 (2) (a) Beginning September 1, 2025, a licensee may meet the requirements of subsection (1) by  
6 having a digital or hard copy version of the licensee's driver's license in the licensee's immediate possession at  
7 all times when operating a motor vehicle and displaying the license upon demand.

8 (b) Only a digital or hard copy version of the licensee's driver's license issued and authorized by  
9 the department is sufficient to meet the requirements of this section.

10 (3) As used in this section:

11 (a) "driver's license" includes a driving privilege card issued pursuant to [section 1]; and

12 (b) "licensee" includes a person who has been issued a driving privilege card."

13

14 **Section 10.** Section 61-5-121, MCA, is amended to read:

15 **"61-5-121. Disposition of fees.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (3), the disposition of the fees  
16 from driver's licenses, driving privilege cards, motorcycle endorsements, commercial driver's licenses, and  
17 replacement driver's licenses provided for in 61-5-114 is as follows:

18 (a) (i) If the fees are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount  
19 of 2.5% of each driver's license fee, 2.5% of each commercial driver's license fee, and 3.75% of each  
20 replacement driver's license fee must be deposited into the county general fund.

21 (ii) If the fees are collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(a)(i) must  
22 be deposited into the state general fund.

23 (b) (i) If the fee is collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the amount of  
24 3.34% of each motorcycle endorsement must be deposited into the county general fund.

25 (ii) If the fee is collected by the department, the amount provided for in subsection (1)(b)(i) must be  
26 deposited into the state general fund.

27 (c) The amount of 20.7% of each driver's license fee, 16.94% of each commercial driver's license  
28 fee, and 8.75% of each replacement driver's license fee must be deposited into the state traffic education

1 account.

2 (d) In addition to the amounts deposited pursuant to subsections (1)(a)(ii) and (1)(b)(ii), the  
3 remainder of each driver's license fee, each commercial driver's license fee, and each replacement driver's  
4 license fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

5 (e) The amount of 63.46% of each motorcycle endorsement fee must be deposited into the state  
6 motorcycle safety account in the state special revenue fund, and the amount of 33.2% of each motorcycle  
7 endorsement fee must be deposited into the state general fund.

8 (2) (a) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and  
9 replacement driver's licenses are collected by a county treasurer or other agent of the department, the county  
10 treasurer or agent shall deposit the amounts provided for in subsections (1)(a)(i) and (1)(b)(i) into the county  
11 general fund. The county treasurer or agent shall then remit all remaining fees to the state for deposit as  
12 provided in subsections (1)(c) through (1)(e).

13 (b) If fees from driver's licenses, commercial driver's licenses, motorcycle endorsements, and  
14 replacement driver's licenses are collected by the department, it shall deposit the fees as provided in  
15 subsections (1)(a)(ii), (1)(b)(ii), and (1)(c) through (1)(e).

16 (3) The fee for a renewal notice, whether collected by a county treasurer, an authorized agent, or  
17 the department, must be remitted to the department for deposit in the state general fund.

18 (4) As used in this section, "driver's license" includes a driving privilege card issued pursuant to  
19 [section 1]."

20

21 **Section 11.** Section 61-5-201, MCA, is amended to read:

22 **"61-5-201. Authority of department to cancel license.** (1) The department may cancel a driver's  
23 license if it has reasonable grounds to believe that:

24 (a) the licensee was not entitled to the issuance;

25 (b) since the issuance, the licensee has become ineligible as determined pursuant to the  
26 provisions of 61-5-105;

27 (c) the licensee failed to give the required or correct information in the licensee's application or  
28 committed any fraud in making the application; or

1 (d) the licensee has applied for another driver's license or an identification card issued by the  
2 department.

3 (2) Upon cancellation, the licensee shall surrender the canceled license to the department.

4 (3) A person whose driver's license is canceled because the person failed to give the required or  
5 correct information on the application or committed any fraud in making the application is disqualified from  
6 operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days from the date of the cancellation.

7 (4) As used in this section:

8 (a) "driver's license" includes a driving privilege card issued pursuant to [section 1]; and

9 (b) "licensee" includes a person who has been issued a driving privilege card."

10

11 **Section 12.** Section 61-5-203, MCA, is amended to read:

12 **"61-5-203. Suspending privileges of nonresidents and unlicensed persons.** (1) The privilege of  
13 driving a motor vehicle on the highways of this state given to a nonresident pursuant to 61-5-104(2) through (4)  
14 and (6) is subject to suspension or revocation by the department in like manner and for like causes as a driver's  
15 license issued under this chapter.

16 (2) An unlicensed person's privilege to apply for and be issued a driver's license in this state is  
17 subject to suspension or revocation by the department in like manner and for like causes as a driver's license  
18 issued under this chapter."

19

20 **Section 13.** Section 61-5-204, MCA, is amended to read:

21 **"61-5-204. Suspending resident's license upon conviction in another state.** (1) The department  
22 may suspend or revoke the driver's license of any resident of this state or the privilege of a nonresident to drive  
23 a motor vehicle in this state upon receiving notice of the conviction of the person in another jurisdiction of an  
24 offense in that jurisdiction ~~which~~ that, if committed in this state, would be grounds for the suspension or  
25 revocation of the driver's license.

26 (2) As used in this section, "driver's license" includes a driving privilege card issued pursuant to  
27 [section 1]."

28

1           **Section 14.** Section 61-11-503, MCA, is amended to read:

2           **"61-11-503. Definitions.** As used in this part, the following definitions apply:

3           (1) "Disclose" means to engage in any practice or conduct that makes available or known, by  
4 means of any communication to another person, organization, or entity, personal information contained in a  
5 motor vehicle record.

6           (2) "Express consent" means an affirmative authorization given in writing by a person to whom  
7 personal information pertains that specifically allows the department to release personal information to another  
8 person, organization, or entity. Consent may be conveyed electronically if the conveyance includes an  
9 electronic signature, as defined in 30-18-102, from the person to whom the personal information pertains.

10          (3) "Highly restricted personal information" means an individual's photograph or image, social  
11 security number, or medical or disability information.

12          (4) "Motor vehicle record" means any record maintained by the department that pertains to a  
13 driver's license, commercial driver's license, driving permit, driving privilege card, identification card, or title or  
14 registration for a motor vehicle, trailer, semitrailer, pole trailer, camper, motorboat, personal watercraft, sailboat,  
15 snowmobile, or off-highway vehicle.

16          (5) "Person" does not mean a state agency or local government entity.

17          (6) (a) "Personal information" means information that identifies a person, including a person's  
18 name, address, telephone number, social security number, driver's license or identification number, date of  
19 birth, photograph or image, and medical or disability information.

20          (b) The term does not include the five-digit zip code of an address, information on vehicular  
21 accidents, driving or equipment-related violations, a person's driver's license or vehicle registration status, or a  
22 vehicle's insurance status.

23          (7) "Record" includes all books, papers, photographs, photostats, cards, film, tapes, recordings,  
24 electronic data, printouts, or other documentary materials, regardless of physical form or characteristics."  
25

26           **Section 15.** Section 61-14-201, MCA, is amended to read:

27           **"61-14-201. Rulemaking authority -- driver's licenses and identification cards.** (1) The  
28 department may adopt rules to administer and enforce the provisions of Title 61, chapter 5.

1           (2)     The department may adopt rules governing acceptable methods of proof of identification,  
2 including name, date of birth, and authorized presence, that an individual ~~must~~shall submit when applying for a  
3 license or identification card, including a new, renewal, or replacement license or identification card.

4           (3)     The department may adopt rules governing the determination of the driver's license expiration  
5 date, minimum and maximum license terms, and license renewal requirements for a driver's license issued to a  
6 person who is a foreign national whose presence in the United States is temporarily authorized under federal  
7 law.

8           (4)     The department shall adopt rules governing the calculation of grace periods for renewals and  
9 the calculation of other time periods established by statute or federal regulation.

10          (5)     The department may adopt rules governing the renewal of a driver's license by a person in the  
11 military assigned to active duty who had a valid Montana driver's license at the time of entering active duty.

12          (6)     The department shall adopt rules to set the standards for driver license examinations and  
13 reexaminations.

14          (7)     The department may adopt rules to set the standards for photographs, certifications, and  
15 signature requirements for the issuance of driver's licenses.

16          (8)     The department shall adopt rules establishing the functional abilities and skills required to  
17 exercise ordinary and reasonable control to safely operate a motor vehicle. The rules:

18           (a)     must include operational restrictions based on the driver's ability and skills;

19           (b)     may direct the design of one or more types of skills tests. A skills test may consist of:

20           (i)     a comprehensive assessment of a person's functional abilities by means of an actual  
21 demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the safe operation of a  
22 motor vehicle; or

23           (ii)    a more limited assessment of a person's functional abilities, conducted at the discretion of the  
24 department, as related to a specific physical or mental condition or conditions or a request for reexamination.

25           (c)     must include appropriate licensing criteria relating to the use of adaptive equipment or  
26 operational limits that can be readily discerned by law enforcement or a licensing agency in another jurisdiction.

27          (9)     The department shall adopt rules establishing vision requirements for a person to safely  
28 operate a motor vehicle. The rules:

1 (a) must include the minimum uncorrected or corrected visual acuity requirements for both  
2 unrestricted and restricted licenses and operational restrictions based on the visual acuity of an applicant or  
3 licensee, including the use of bioptic lenses; and

4 (b) may include minimum field of vision and depth perception requirements for both unrestricted  
5 and restricted licenses.

6 (10) The rules in subsections (8) and (9):

7 (a) may take into consideration any nationally recognized standards or recommended practices or  
8 standards of other jurisdictions for assessment of a person's functional abilities and skills;

9 (b) may be derived from medical guidelines and information compiled by driver licensing medical  
10 advisory or review boards from other jurisdictions, as well as information received from advocacy groups for  
11 persons with disabilities and senior citizens; and

12 (c) except as provided in 61-5-105, may not use a person's age or a person's physical or mental  
13 disability, limitation, or condition as a justification for the denial of a license.

14 (11) The department shall adopt rules governing the issuance of a restricted learner license,  
15 including when the department may issue a restricted learner license to allow for a driver to practice driving  
16 skills.

17 (12) The department shall adopt rules governing the issuance of a hardship license to a person who  
18 is at least 13 years of age and because of individual hardship needs a restricted driver's license, including a  
19 person who holds a learner license under 61-5-106. The department ~~must~~shall consider, among other criteria,  
20 whether a hardship license is needed because the applicant's parent or guardian is not available to accompany  
21 the licensee, whether due to employment or circumstances related to the operation of a farm or ranch or  
22 because the parent or guardian does not hold a valid driver's license, and the licensee is required to drive to the  
23 licensee's school bus stop.

24 (13) The department may adopt rules governing probationary licenses, including:

25 (a) issuance to a person whose license has been suspended or revoked or whose license is  
26 subject to a discretionary suspension or revocation;

27 (b) the establishment of restrictions placed on a probationary license;

28 (c) the expiration of a probationary license;

1 (d) the cancellation of a probationary license for violating the restrictions on the probationary  
2 license or for another law violation; and

3 (e) the issuance, withdrawal, and monitoring of a restricted-use driving permit issued under 61-5-  
4 232.

5 (14) The department may adopt rules governing the requirements for a veteran designation on a  
6 driver's license or identification card.

7 (15) The department may adopt rules governing the issuance of a replacement driver's license.

8 (16) The department may adopt rules governing the certification process for cooperative driver  
9 testing program instructors.

10 (17) The department may adopt rules for the implementation of online driver's license renewal.

11 (18) The department shall adopt rules governing the issuance, renewal, and cancellation of  
12 identification cards that align with the proof of identity, residence, and authorized presence standards for a  
13 driver's license.

14 (19) The department may adopt rules for determining moving violations.

15 (20) The department may adopt rules for charging a fee for not appearing at a scheduled  
16 commercial skills test or motorcycle test and for the waiver of the fee for good cause shown.

17 (21) The department shall adopt rules governing restrictions for personal communication limitations  
18 and other medical information that would be helpful to a peace officer during a traffic stop.

19 (22) The department may adopt rules governing the conditions under which an applicant is eligible  
20 to receive a driver's license or identification card by expedited service and to set the fee for expedited service.

21 (23) (a) By September 1, 2025, the department shall establish a program that allows every  
22 qualifying applicant for a driver's license the option to acquire a digital version of the applicant's driver's license  
23 in addition to the physical version issued pursuant to 61-5-116.

24 (b) By July 1, 2025, the department shall adopt rules to implement subsection (23)(a), including but  
25 not limited to issuance requirements, specifications, security and privacy protections, and allowable uses  
26 associated with the digital driver's license.

27 (24) The department shall adopt rules necessary to implement [sections 1 through 5], including  
28 setting fees, which must be reasonably related to the costs to the department.



1           ~~(24)~~(25)The department may adopt rules to implement any other provision of this title."

2

3           NEW SECTION. Section 16. Codification instruction. [Sections 1 through 5] are intended to be  
4 codified as an integral part of Title 61, chapter 5, part 1, and the provisions of Title 61, chapter 5, part 1, apply  
5 to [sections 1 through 5].

6

7           NEW SECTION. Section 17. Effective date. [This act] is effective January 1, 2026.

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