WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 1999

ENROLLED
Committee Substitute for
SENATE BILL NO. 497

(By Senator Craig, et al.)

PASSED March 13, 1999
In Effect NINETY DAYS FROM PASSAGE
AN ACT to amend and reenact sections one and twelve, article two, chapter seventeen-b of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the expiration date of driver's licenses; and allowing the commissioner of the division of motor vehicles to change the date that a driver's license expires to the driver's birthday, and providing for lowering the age for nondriver's identification cards.
Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections one and twelve, article two, chapter seventeen-b of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL.

§17B-2-1. Drivers must be licensed; types of licenses; licensees need not obtain local government license; motorcycle driver license; identification cards.

(a) No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, may drive any motor vehicle upon a street or highway in this state or upon any subdivision street, as used in article twenty-four, chapter eight of this code, when the use of such subdivision street is generally used by the public unless the person has a valid driver's license under the provisions of this code for the type or class of vehicle being driven.

Any person licensed to operate a motor vehicle as provided in this code may exercise the privilege thereby granted as provided in this code and, except as otherwise provided by law, shall not be required to obtain any other license to exercise such privilege by any county, municipality or local board or body having authority to adopt local police regulations.

(b) The division, upon issuing a driver's license, shall indicate on the license the type or general class or classes of vehicle or vehicles the licensee may operate in accordance with the provisions of this code, federal law or rule.

(c) Driver's licenses issued by the division shall be classified in the following manner:

(1) Class A, B or C license shall be issued to those persons eighteen years of age or older with two years driving experience and who have qualified for the commercial driver's license established by chapter seventeen-e of this code and the federal Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, Title XII of public law 99-570 and subsequent rules, and have paid the required fee.
(2) Class D license shall be issued to those persons eighteen years and older with one year driving experience who operate motor vehicles other than those types of vehicles which require the operator to be licensed under the provisions of chapter seventeen-e of this code and federal law and rule and whose primary function or employment is the transportation of persons or property for compensation or wages and have paid the required fee. For the purposes of the regulation of the operation of a motor vehicle, wherever the term chauffeur's license is used in this code, it shall be construed to mean the Class A, B, C or D license described in this section or chapter seventeen-e of this code or federal law or rule: Provided, That anyone who is not required to be licensed under the provisions of chapter seventeen-e of this code and federal law or rule and who operates a motor vehicle which is registered or which is required to be registered as a Class A motor vehicle as that term is defined in section one, article ten, chapter seventeen-a of this code with a gross vehicle weight rating of less than eight thousand one pounds, is not required to obtain a Class D license.

(3) Class E license shall be issued to those persons who have qualified under the provisions of this chapter and who are not required to obtain a Class A, B, C or D license and who have paid the required fee. The Class E license may be endorsed under the provisions of section seven-b of this article for motorcycle operation.

(4) Class F license shall be issued to those persons who successfully complete the motorcycle examination procedure provided for by this chapter and have paid the required fee, but who do not possess a Class A, B, C and D or E driver's license.

(5) All licenses issued under this section may contain information designating the licensee as a diabetic, if the licensee requests this information on the license.

(d) No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, shall drive any motorcycle upon a street or highway in this state or upon any subdivision street, as used in article twenty-four, chapter eight of this code, when the use of such subdivision street is generally used.
by the public unless the person has a valid motorcycle license or a valid license which has been endorsed under section seven-b of this article for motorcycle operation or has a valid motorcycle instruction permit.

(e) (1) A nonoperator identification card may be issued to any person who:

(A) Is a resident of this state in accordance with the provisions of section one-a, article three, chapter seventeen-a of this code;

(B) Does not have a valid driver's license;

(C) Has reached the age of two years. The division may also issue a nonoperator identification card to a person under the age of two years for good cause shown;

(D) Has paid the required fee of two dollars and fifty cents per year for each year the identification card is issued to be valid: Provided, That such fee is not required if the applicant is sixty-five years or older or is legally blind; and

(E) Presents a birth certificate or other proof of age and identity acceptable to the division with a completed application on a form furnished by the division.

(2) The nondriver identification card shall contain the same information as a driver's license except that such identification card shall be clearly marked as identification card. However, the division may issue an identification card with less information to persons under the age of sixteen. It may be renewed on application and payment of the fee required by this section.

(A) Every identification card issued to persons who have attained their twenty-first birthday shall expire on the day of the month designated by the commissioner in which the applicant's birthday occurs in those years in which the applicant's age is evenly divisible by five. Except as provided in paragraph (B) of this subdivision, no identification card may be issued for less than three years nor more than seven years and shall be valid for a period of five years expiring in the month in which the applicant's
birthday occurs and in a year in which the applicant's age is evenly divisible by five.

(B) Every identification card issued to persons who have not attained their twenty-first birthday shall expire on the day of the month designated by the commissioner in the year in which the applicant attains the age of twenty-one years.

(C) Every identification card issued to persons under the age of sixteen shall expire on the day of the month designated by the commissioner in which the applicant's birthday occurs and shall be issued for a period of two years.

(3) The identification card shall be surrendered to the division when the holder is issued a driver's license. The division may issue an identification card to an applicant whose privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been refused, canceled, suspended or revoked under the provisions of this code.

(f) Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars; and upon a second or subsequent conviction, shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars, or confined in the county or regional jail not more than six months, or both.

§17B-2-12. Expiration of licenses; renewal; renewal fees.

(a) Every driver's license shall expire five years from the date of its issuance.

(1) Every driver's license issued to persons who have attained their twenty-first birthday shall expire on the day of the month designated by the commissioner in which the applicant's birthday occurs in those years in which the applicant's age is evenly divisible by five. Except as provided in the following subdivisions, no driver's license may be issued for less than three years nor more than seven years and shall be valid for a period of five years, expiring in the month in which the applicant's birthday occurs and in a year in which the applicant's age is evenly divisible by five.
(2) Every driver's license issued to persons who have not attained their twenty-first birthday shall expire on the day of the month designated by the commissioner in the year in which the applicant attains the age of twenty-one years.

(3) The driver's license of any person in the armed forces is extended for a period of six months from the date the person is separated under honorable circumstances from active duty in the armed forces.

(4) The commissioner may change the date that a driver's license expires from the last day of the month in those years specified in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection to the day of the month in which the applicant's birthday occurs in those years. If the commissioner changes the expiration date, the change may only affect new licenses and renewed licenses.

(c) A person who allows his or her driver's license to expire may apply to the division for renewal of the license. Application shall be made upon a form furnished by the division and shall be accompanied by payment of the fee required by section eight of this article plus an additional fee of five dollars. The commissioner shall determine whether the person qualifies for a renewed license and may, in the commissioner's discretion, renew any expired license without examination of the applicant.

(d) Each renewal of a driver's license shall contain a new color photograph of the licensee. By first class mail to the address last known to the division, the commissioner shall notify each person who holds a valid driver's license of the expiration date of the license. The notice shall be mailed at least thirty days prior to the expiration date of the license and shall include a renewal application form.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 3rd Day of 1996

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR
Date 3-60-99
Time 10:50}