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SECOND REGULAR SESSION, 2008

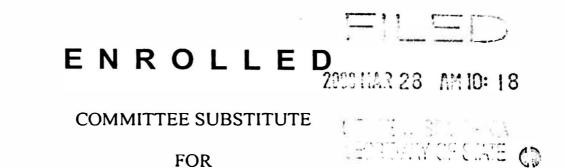
ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR House Bill No. 4139

(By Delegates Webster, Hrutkay, Kessler, Moore, Pino, Stemple and Overington)

Passed March 7, 2008

In Effect Ninety Days form Passage



H. B. 4139

(BY DELEGATES WEBSTER, HRUTKAY, KESSLER, MOORE, PINO, STEMPLE AND OVERINGTON)

[Passed March 7, 2008; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17B-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to further amend said chapter by adding thereto a new article, designated §17B-2B-1, §17B-2B-2, §17B-2B-3, §17B-2B-4, §17B-2B-5, §17B-2B-6, §17B-2B-7, §17B-2B-8, §17B-2B-9, §17B-2B-10 and §17B-2B-11, all relating to licensing persons using bioptic telescopic devices to operate a motor vehicle; creating a Class G driver's license for persons using bioptic telescopic devices who complete an approved driver training program; authorizing the Division of Rehabilitation Services to create an approved driver training program; establishing minimum eligibility requirements for acceptance into an approved driver training program and minimum curriculum requirements; establishing criteria and restrictions for a Class G instruction permit and driver's license; specifying the duration of the Class G instruction permit and driver's license; providing for removal of the daytime driving restriction in certain circumstances; establishing standards for licensure of restricted out-of-state

drivers to obtain a West Virginia Class G instruction permit or driver's license; providing prerequisites for renewal of a Class G driver's license; providing for suspension, revocation and reinstatement of Class G driver's licenses; requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to collect information regarding accidents, violations and convictions by Class G licensees and to report the same annually to the Legislature; requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the Director of the Division of Rehabilitation Services to propose legislative rules; and clarifying that training provisions for Class G licensees do not apply to persons already licensed in this state to operate a motor vehicle while wearing bioptic telescopic devices.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §17B-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted; and that said chapter be further amended by adding thereto a new article, designated, §17B-2B-1, §17B-2B-2, §17B-2B-3, §17B-2B-4 §17B-2B-5, §17B-2B-6, §17B-2B-7, §17B-2B-8, §17B-2B-9, §17B-2B-10 and §17B-2B-11, 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)(1) 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 used by
 the public generally unless the person has a valid driver's
 license issued pursuant to this code for the type or class of
 vehicle being driven.

3 [Enr. Com. Sub. for H. B. 4139

7 (2) Any person licensed to operate a motor vehicle
8 pursuant to this code may exercise the privilege thereby
9 granted in the manner provided in this code and, except as
10 otherwise provided by law, is not required to obtain any other
11 license to exercise the privilege by any county, municipality
12 or local board or body having authority to adopt local police
13 regulations.

14 (b) The division, upon issuing a driver's license, shall 15 indicate on the license the type or general class or classes of 16 vehicles the licensee may operate in accordance with this code, federal law or rule. Licenses shall be issued in 17 different colors for those drivers under age eighteen, those 18 19 drivers age eighteen to twenty-one and adult drivers. The 20 commissioner is authorized to select and assign colors to the 21 licenses of the various age groups. (c) Driver's licenses 22 issued by the division shall be classified in the following 23 manner:

(1) A Class A, B or C license shall be issued to those
persons eighteen years of age or older with two years of
driving experience who have qualified for the commercial
driver's license established by chapter seventeen-e of this
code and the federal Motor Carrier Safety and Improvement
Act of 1999 and subsequent rules, and have paid the required
fee.

31 (2) A Class D license shall be issued to those persons 32 eighteen years and older with one year of driving experience 33 who operate motor vehicles other than those types of vehicles 34 which require the operator to be licensed under the provisions 35 of chapter seventeen-e of this code and federal law and rule 36 and whose primary function or employment is the 37 transportation of persons or property for compensation or 38 wages and have paid the required fee. For the purpose of 39 regulating the operation of motor vehicles, wherever the term

40 "chauffeur's license" is used in this code, it shall be construed 41 to mean the Class A, B, C or D license described in this 42 section or chapter seventeen-e of this code or federal law or 43 rule: Provided, That anyone not required to be licensed 44 under the provisions of chapter seventeen-e of this code and 45 federal law or rule and who operates a motor vehicle 46 registered or required to be registered as a Class A motor 47 vehicle, as that term is defined in section one, article ten, 48 chapter seventeen-a of this code, with a gross vehicle weight 49 rating of less than eight thousand one pounds, is not required 50 to obtain a Class D license.

51 (3) A Class E license shall be issued to those persons who 52 have qualified for a driver's license under the provisions of 53 this chapter and who are not required to obtain a Class A, B, 54 C or D license and who have paid the required fee. The Class 55 E license may be endorsed under the provisions of section 56 seven-b of this article for motorcycle operation. The Class E 57 or (G) license for any person under the age of eighteen may 58 also be endorsed with the appropriate graduated driver 59 license level in accordance with the provisions of section 60 three-a of this article.

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

(5) A Class G driver's license or instruction permit shall
be issued to a person using bioptic telescopic lenses who has
successfully completed an approved driver training program
and complied with all other requirements of article two-b of
this chapter.

(d) All licenses issued under this section may containinformation designating the licensee as a diabetic, organ

donor, as deaf or hard-of-hearing or as having any other
handicap or disability, according to criteria established by the
division, if the licensee requests this information on the
license.

(e) No person, except those hereinafter expressly
exempted, may drive any motorcycle upon a street or
highway in this state or upon any subdivision street used by
the public generally unless the person has a valid motorcycle
license, a valid license which has been endorsed under
section seven-b of this article for motorcycle operation or a
valid motorcycle instruction permit.

83 (f) (1) An identification card may be issued to any person84 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) Has reached the age of two years. The division may
also issue an identification card to a person under the age of
two years for good cause shown;

91 (C) Has paid the required fee of two dollars and fifty 92 cents per year: *Provided*, That the fee is not required if the 93 applicant is sixty-five years or older or is legally blind; and

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

97 (2) The identification card shall contain the same
98 information as a driver's license except that the identification
99 card shall be clearly marked as an identification card.
100 However, the division may issue an identification card with

- 101 less information to persons under the age of sixteen. An
- 102 identification card may be renewed annually on application
- 103 and payment of the fee required by this section.

104 (A) Every identification card issued to a person who has 105 attained his or her twenty-first birthday shall expire on the 106 licensee's birthday in those years in which the licensee's age 107 is evenly divisible by five. Except as provided in paragraph 108 (B) of this subdivision, no identification card may be issued 109 for less than three years or for more than seven years and 110 expires on the licensee's birthday in those years in which the 111 licensee's age is evenly divisible by five.

(B) Every identification card issued to a person who has
not attained his or her twenty-first birthday shall expire thirty
days after the licensee's twenty-first birthday.

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

(3) 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.

(g) Any person violating the provisions of this section is
guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, 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 jail not more than six months,
or both.

ARTICLE 2B. LICENSE TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH BIOPTIC TELESCOPIC DEVICE.

§17B-2B-1. Definitions.

- For purposes of this article, the following terms have the
 meaning indicated:
- (1) "Applicant" means any person applying for a Class G 3 instruction permit or license to operate a motor vehicle in this 4 5 state who must use a bioptic telescopic device to meet the commissioner's minimum visual acuity and visual field 6 7 standards for licensure. 8 (2) "Approved driver training program" means a program 9 that: 10 (A) Provides and coordinates comprehensive assessment and training of driving skills and responses; 11 12 (B) Emphasizes clinical and functional vision skills, 13 predriver readiness skills and the physical, mental and social 14 driving skills of an applicant; 15 (C) Is approved by the Division of Rehabilitation 16 Services, after consultation with the division; and 17 (D) Is operated by and under the auspices of the Division 18 of Rehabilitation Services at its headquarters at Institute, 19 Kanawha County. 20 (3) "Bioptic telescopic device" means a two focus optical
- 21 system used to magnify distant objects by including a small
- telescope that is mounted in a spectacle lens so as to allow an

unobstructed view of the horizontal visual field throughnormal distance corrective lenses.

25 (4) "Corrective lenses" means eyeglasses, contact lenses,
26 and intraocular lenses, but does not mean a bioptic telescopic
27 device.
28 (5) "Device a biotic device."

(5) "Daytime driving restriction" means a limitation onthe operation of a motor vehicle to:

30 (A) The period of time between thirty minutes after31 sunrise and thirty minutes before sunset; and

32 (B) Weather conditions that do not significantly reduce
33 the visibility of the roadway, other traffic, and traffic control
34 devices.

35 (6) "Field expander" means a device used to compensate36 for peripheral visual field loss.

37 (7) "Restricted out-of-state driver" means a person who
38 has been issued, by another state, a valid driver's license with
39 a restriction requiring the driver to use a bioptic telescopic
40 device.

41 (8) "Vision specialist" means a licensed ophthalmologist42 or optometrist.

43 (9) "Visual acuity" means the measure of a person's44 clarity of vision based on the Snellen visual acuity scale.

45 (10) "Visual field" means the area of physical space46 visible to the eye in a given fixed position.

§17B-2B-2. Class G instruction permit or driver's license; participation in approved driver training program; eligibility criteria; required curriculum.

(a) A person who does not meet the visual acuity and 1 2 visual field standards established by the commissioner for 3 licensure to operate a motor vehicle in this state, but who is 4 able to satisfy the minimum vision requirements using a 5 bioptic telescopic device is eligible for a Class G instruction 6 permit or driver's license pursuant to this article if he or she 7 is participating in or has successfully completed an approved 8 driver training program.

9 (b) An applicant is eligible to participate in an approved10 driver training program if he or she:

(1) Submits to the commissioner and to the Division of
Rehabilitation Services a report of examination by a vision
specialist, on a form prescribed by the Division of
Rehabilitation Services, which certifies that:

(A) In the opinion of the vision specialist, the applicant's
vision can be corrected with the use of a bioptic telescopic
device and without field expanders to satisfy the minimum
visual acuity and visual field standards established by the
commissioner;

(B) No ocular diagnosis or prognosis currently exists or
is likely to occur during the period of licensure which would
cause deterioration of the applicant's visual acuity or visual
field to levels below the commissioner's minimum visual
acuity and visual field standards for licensure; and

25 (C) The applicant is a likely candidate for acceptance into26 an approved driver training program; and

27 (2) Satisfies any other criteria for participation28 established by the Division of Rehabilitation Services.

29 (c) An approved driver training program shall include, at30 a minimum:

31 (1) Predriving instruction with regard to highway signs32 and the rules of the road;

33 (2) Predriving instruction in proper use of bioptic34 telescopic devices; and

35 (3) At least thirty hours of behind-the-wheel instruction36 in driving with bioptic telescopic devices.

37 (d) The Division of Rehabilitation Services may waive
38 predriving instruction with regard to highway signs and the
39 rules of the road pursuant to subdivision (1), subsection (c)
40 of this section if the applicant:

41 (1) Has at least three years of experience driving with an42 unrestricted license; and

43 (2) Passes the written examination provided in44 subdivision (2), subsection (a), section (3) of this section.

§17B-2B-3. Class G instruction permit; eligibility criteria; restrictions; duration of permit.

(a) An applicant is eligible for a Class G instruction
 permit if he or she has:

3 (1) Been accepted into and enrolled in an approved driver
4 training program;

5 (2) Passed a written examination, in the manner
6 prescribed by the commissioner, testing the applicant's:

7 (A) Ability to read and understand highway signs8 regulating, warning and directing traffic; and

9 (B) Knowledge of the traffic laws of this state; and

(3) Satisfied, at each stage of the licensing process, any
additional requirements for an instruction permit required by
article two of this chapter that are not addressed in this
article.

(b) The commissioner may not issue a Class G instruction
permit until the applicant has surrendered any license he or
she currently holds to operate a motor vehicle.

(c) A Class G instruction permit authorizes the permittee
to operate a Class A passenger motor vehicle, weighing eight
thousand (8000) pounds or less, subject to the following
restrictions:

21 (1) The applicant may drive only while using a bioptic
22 telescopic device;

23 (2) The applicant is subject to a daytime driving24 restriction;

25 (3) The applicant may drive only when accompanied by
26 a certified driver rehabilitation specialist or driver
27 rehabilitation educator; and

(4) Any other conditions or restrictions the commissioner
considers necessary to insure the safe operation of the motor
vehicle.

31 (d) A Class G instruction permit is valid for up to one32 year. Upon expiration of the instruction permit, the applicant

- 33 may reapply for a new instruction permit, provided that he or
- 34 she is eligible pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

§17B-2B-4. Class G driver's license; eligibility criteria; duration of license; surrender of current license; provisions not applicable to persons already licensed to drive with bioptic device.

(a) A person who has obtained a Class G instruction
 permit may obtain a Class G driver's license to operate a
 motor vehicle if he or she has:

4 (1) Been certified by the Division of Rehabilitation
5 Services as having successfully completed an approved
6 driver training program, along with any agency
7 recommendations regarding license restrictions or
8 modifications, including, but not limited to:

- 9 (A) Special adaptive equipment;
- 10 (B) Hours of permitted operation;
- 11 (C) Types of roads on which the applicant may operate avehicle; and
- 13 (D) How far from home the applicant may operate a14 vehicle;

15 (2) Submitted to the commissioner and to the Director of 16 the Division of Rehabilitation Services, on a form prescribed by the Division of Rehabilitation Services, a report of 17 18 examination by a vision specialist, conducted after the applicant completes the approved driver training program, 19 20 certifying that the applicant continues to meet the minimum 21 visual acuity and visual field standards established by the 22 commissioner for licensure to operate a motor vehicle;

(3) Successfully completed a comprehensive road skills
examination, conducted at a location determined by the
commissioner, with a certified driver rehabilitation specialist
or driver rehabilitation educator in the test vehicle along with
the driving examiner. The comprehensive road skills
examination shall include, at a minimum:

(A) A "passenger in car" test with bioptic telescopic
device in place designed to test competency in using the
bioptic telescopic device under stationary and dynamic
conditions;

33 (B) A maneuverability skills test; and

34 (C) A standardized on-road test designed to test driving35 competency of the applicant; and

36 (4) Satisfied, at each stage of the licensing process, any
37 additional requirements for licensure required by article two
38 of this chapter that are not addressed in this article;

(b) If an applicant fails the comprehensive road skills
examination three times, he or she is not eligible to retake the
examination until he or she has successfully completed
additional training in an approved driver training program
and been recommended for retesting by the director of the
program.

45 (c) An applicant who has a current license to operate a
46 motor vehicle other than a Class G driver's license must
47 surrender his or her current driver's license before the
48 commissioner will issue a Class G driver's license or
49 instruction permit.

50 (d) Every Class G licensee must provide the 51 commissioner with a report of examination by a vision

52 specialist, conducted no more than three months prior to the

53 annual anniversary of the issuance of the license, certifying

54 that the applicant continues to meet the minimum visual

- 55 acuity and visual field standards established by the 56 commissioner for licensure to operate a motor vehicle. The
- 57 report shall be submitted on a form prescribed by the
- 58 commissioner.

§17B-2B-5. Restrictions on Class G driver's license; removal of daytime driving restriction.

- 1 (a) A Class G driver's license authorizes the licensee to
- 2 operate a Class A passenger motor vehicle, weighing eight
- 3 thousand pounds or less, subject to the following restrictions:
- 4 (1) The applicant may drive only while using a bioptic5 telescopic device;
- 6 (2) Daytime driving restriction; and
- 7 (3) Any other conditions or restrictions the commissioner
 8 considers necessary to insure the safe operation of the motor
 9 vehicle.
- (b) An applicant to whom a Class G driver's license has
 been issued may apply to the commissioner for removal of
 the daytime driving restriction if the applicant has:
- (1) Operated a motor vehicle for thirty-six months
 without an at-fault accident, moving violation or license
 suspension;
- 16 (2) Submitted a report of a vision examination, conducted
 17 not more than six months prior to the application, by a vision
 18 specialist showing that the licensee's visual impairment is

- 19 stable and that he or she can see well enough to operate a20 vehicle at night;
- 21 (3) Successfully completed additional evaluation and
 22 training, in an approved driver training program, specifically
 23 designed for night driving;
- 24 (4) Passed a comprehensive night driving examination.

§17B-2B-6. Restricted out-of-state drivers; required to obtain Class G driver's license; surrender of current license; waiver of requirement to participate in an approved driver training program.

(a) A restricted out-of-state driver establishing residence
 in West Virginia must apply for a Class G driver's license in
 this state.

- 4 (b) To obtain a Class G driver's license, the restricted5 out-of-state driver must:
- 6 (1) Satisfy all the requirements of licensure contained in
 7 sections three and four of this article;
- 8 (2) Surrender his or her out-of-state driver's license to the9 commissioner; and
- 10 (3) Provide the commissioner with a report of 11 examination by a vison specialist, conducted no more than 12 ninety-days prior to the application, showing that the 13 applicant meets the minimum vision standards.

(c) If, based upon an evaluation of the out-of-state
driver's abilities, along with any recommendations, the
Division of Rehabilitation Services certifies to the
commissioner that the restricted out-of-state driver was

18 required. as a condition of licensure in the other state, to 19 complete training substantially equivalent to the approved 20 driver training program required by this article, the 21 commissioner may waive the requirement that the restricted 22 out-of-state driver complete an approved driver training 23 program in this state prior to licensure.

§17B-2B-7. Renewal of license.

- (a) A Class G driver's license is valid for no more than
 two years.
- 3 (b) To renew a Class G driver's license, the licensee must
 4 submit a report of a comprehensive vision examination by a
 5 vision specialist at least ninety-days prior to expiration of the
 6 license.
- 7 (c) If the vision specialist certifies that the conditions
 8 causing the licensee's visual impairment are stable, and the
 9 licensee continues to satisfy the commissioner's minimum
 10 visual acuity and visual field standards for licensure, the
 11 division shall renew the license for a period of one year.
- (d) If the vision specialist certifies that the conditions
 causing the licensee's visual impairment are unstable or
 deteriorating, the commissioner may require the licensee to
 undergo additional testing or training before deciding
 whether to renew the license.
- (e) If any comprehensive vision examination by a vision
 specialist determines that the licensee no longer satisfies the
 minimum visual acuity or visual field standards for licensure,
 the division shall not renew the license.

§17B-2B-8. Suspension, revocation and reinstatement of license.

1 (a) The commissioner may immediately suspend the 2 Class G driver's license of any driver who is involved in an accident resulting in bodily injury or death, violates the 3 4 restrictions placed on his or her license or is convicted of 5 more than one moving violation within a twelve-month 6 period, if the commissioner makes a finding that allowing the 7 licensee to continue to drive pending resolution of the 8 suspension would present a danger to the public.

9 (b) The commissioner shall suspend the driver's license
10 of any licensee who fails to meet visual acuity or visual field
11 minimum standards.

(c) The commissioner shall suspend the driver's license
of any licensee who fails an evaluation of his or her ability to
safely operate a motor vehicle by the division of
rehabilitation's driving training program.

16 (d) A licensee whose license is suspended pursuant to this 17 section may request a hearing within ten days of receiving the 18 commissioner's notice of immediate suspension. No stay of 19 the license suspension may be granted pending the hearing, 20 but the commissioner must conduct a requested hearing on 21 the suspension of the license within seventy days of receiving 22 the request for a hearing. Only the licensee may request a 23 continuance, but no stay of the suspension may be granted 24 pending the delayed hearing.

§17B-2B-9. Commissioner and director to collect information regarding Class G licensees; report to Legislature.

1 (a) The commissioner shall collect and monitor 2 information regarding accidents, license suspensions and 3 revocations and convictions of Class G licensees.

4 (b) On or before the first day of February, of each year
5 after the first Class G driver's license is issued:

6 (1) The commissioner shall provide to the Joint
7 Committee on Government and Finance a written report
8 detailing:

9 (A) The number of Class G driver's licenses issued in the10 previous calendar year; and

(B) Whether and to what extent holders of Class Gdriver's licenses were, during the previous calendar year:

13 (i) Involved in vehicular crashes; or

(ii) The subject of proceedings to suspend or revoke their
licenses or were convicted of offenses involving moving
violations, the rules of the road, illegal substance use or legal
substance abuse.

(2) The Director of the Division of Rehabilitation
Services shall provide to the Joint Committee on Government
and Finance a written report detailing, for the previous
calendar year:

(A) The number of applicants for the approved drivertraining program;

24 (B) The number of persons who successfully completed25 the program;

26 (C) The number of persons who failed to complete the27 program and the reason for each failure; and

(D) The status of the approved driver training program's
funding and the extent to which persons who applied for the
program were able to pay the costs associated with it.

§17B-2B-10. Rules.

(a) The Director of the Division of Rehabilitation
 Services, after consultation with the commissioner, shall
 propose legislative rules for promulgation in accordance with
 article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code establishing:

5 (1) Additional criteria, including minimum visual acuity
6 and visual field standards, for acceptance into an approved
7 driver training program;

8 (2) Additional curriculum requirements for an approved9 driver training program;

10 (3) Standards for successful completion of an approved11 driver training program;

12 (4) Standards for the comprehensive road skills test;

13 (5) Criteria for certifying whether an out-of-state driver
14 training program is substantially equivalent to an approved
15 driver training program in this state;

16 (6) Minimum requirements for additional driver training,17 if required, including criteria for night time driving;

18 (7) Any other standards or criteria necessary to19 implement this article.

20 (b) The commissioner, in collaboration with the Director21 of the Division of Rehabilitation Services, shall propose

- 22 legislative rules for promulgation in accordance with article
- 23 three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code establishing:
- (1) Criteria for issuance of a Class G instruction permit
 or driver's license, including minimum visual acuity and
 visual field standards;
- 27 (2) Standards for imposing and removing additional
 28 restrictions on an individual applicant's Class G instruction
 29 permit or driver's license;
- 30 (3) Standards for suspension, revocation and
 31 reinstatement of a Class G instruction permit or driver's
 32 license; and
- 33 (4) Any other standards or criteria necessary to34 implement this article.

§17B-2B-11. Applicability.

Except for the provisions of subsection (d), section four of this article requiring an annual report of vision examination to be submitted to the commissioner, the provisions of this article are not applicable to any person licensed by the commissioner to operate a motor vehicle with a bioptic telescopic device prior to the effective date of this article.

4

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee Chorman House Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

ma President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

upplove this the _ The within le day of _ 2008. , 71 Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR MAR 1 7 2008 Time 9:357

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