

An Act

ENROLLED HOUSE
BILL NO. 2465

By: Lowe (Dick), West (Kevin),
Crosswhite Hader, Talley,
Miller, Boles, Conley,
Stearman, West (Josh),
Patzkowsky, Sims, Moore,
Davis, Phillips, Lawson,
Luttrell, Burns, Stark and
Ford of the House

and

Paxton and Bergstrom of the
Senate

An Act relating to motor vehicles; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-105, as last amended by Section 14, Chapter 42, O.S.L. 2017 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-105), which relates to graduated Class D licenses; allowing approved written examination proctors to administer certain examinations; amending 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-110, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-110), which relates to examination of applicants; requiring establishment of procedures to administer certain examinations; authorizing Department of Public Safety to approve and enter into agreements to allow certain entities to proctor written examinations; modifying individuals who may take certain examination; and declaring an emergency.

SUBJECT: Motor vehicles

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-105, as last amended by Section 14, Chapter 42, O.S.L. 2017 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-105), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-105. A. Unless a legal custodial parent or legal guardian has filed an objection to licensure pursuant to Section 6-103.1 of this title, any person under eighteen (18) years of age who is in compliance with or not subject to Section 6-107.3 of this title may be permitted to operate:

1. A Class D motor vehicle under the graduated driver license provisions prescribed in subsections B through E of this section;

2. A motorcycle under the provisions prescribed in subsection H of this section; or

3. A farm vehicle under the provisions prescribed in subsection I of this section.

B. Any person who is at least fifteen (15) years of age may drive during a session in which the driver is being instructed in a driver education course, as set out in subparagraphs a, b, c, d and e of paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section, by a certified driver education instructor who is seated in the right front seat of the motor vehicle.

C. Any person:

1. Who is at least fifteen and one-half (15 1/2) years of age and is currently receiving instruction in or has successfully completed driver education. For purposes of this section, the term "driver education" shall mean:

- a. a prescribed secondary school driver education course, as provided for in Sections 19-113 through 19-121 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes,
- b. a driver education course, certified by the Department of Public Safety, from a parochial, private, or other nonpublic secondary school,
- c. a commercial driver training course, as defined by Sections 801 through 808 of this title,
- d. a parent-taught driver education course, certified by the Department of Public Safety. The Department shall promulgate rules for any parent-taught driver education course, or

- e. a driver education course certified by a state other than Oklahoma; or

2. Who is at least sixteen (16) years of age,

may, upon successfully passing all parts of the driver license examination administered by the Department, or an approved written examination proctor, except the driving examination, be issued a learner permit which will grant the permittee the privilege to operate a Class D motor vehicle upon the public highways only between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and while accompanied by a licensed driver who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and who is actually occupying a seat beside the permittee; provided, the written examination for a learner permit may be waived by the Department of Public Safety upon verification that the person has successfully completed driver education.

D. 1. Any person:

- a. who has applied for, been issued, and has possessed a learner permit for a minimum of six (6) months, and
- b. whose custodial legal parent or legal guardian certifies to the Department by sworn affidavit that the person has received a minimum of fifty (50) hours of actual behind-the-wheel training, of which at least ten (10) hours of such training was at night, from a licensed driver who was at least twenty-one (21) years of age and who was properly licensed to operate a Class D motor vehicle for a minimum of two (2) years,

may be issued an intermediate Class D license upon successfully passing all parts of the driver license examinations administered by the Department; provided, the written examination, if it has not previously been administered or waived, may be waived by the Department upon verification that the person has successfully completed driver education or the driving examination may be waived by the Department upon successful passage of the examination administered by a certified designated examiner, as provided for in Section 6-110 of this title. However, notwithstanding the date of issuance of the learner permit, if the person has been convicted of a traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time period specified in subparagraph a of this paragraph shall be recalculated to begin from the date of conviction for the traffic offense, and must elapse before that person may be

issued an intermediate Class D license. If the person has been convicted of more than one traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time period specified in subparagraph a of this paragraph shall be recalculated to begin from the most recent date of conviction, and must elapse before that person may be issued an intermediate Class D license.

2. A person who has been issued an intermediate Class D license under the provisions of this subsection:

a. shall be granted the privilege to operate a Class D motor vehicle upon the public highways:

(1) only between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., except for driving to and from work, school, school activities, and church activities, or

(2) at any time, if a licensed driver who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age is actually occupying a seat beside the intermediate Class D licensee, or if the intermediate Class D licensee is a farm or ranch resident, and is operating a motor vehicle while engaged in farming or ranching operations outside the limits of a municipality, or driving to and from work, school, school activities, or church activities, and

b. shall not operate a motor vehicle with more than one passenger unless:

(1) all passengers live in the same household as the custodial legal parent or legal guardian, or

(2) a licensed driver at least twenty-one (21) years of age is actually occupying a seat beside the intermediate Class D licensee.

E. Any person who has been issued an intermediate Class D license for a minimum of:

1. One (1) year; or

2. Six (6) months, if the person has completed both the driver education and the parent-certified behind-the-wheel training provisions of subparagraph b of paragraph 1 of subsection D of this section,

may be issued a Class D license. However, notwithstanding the date of issuance of the Class D license, if the person has been convicted of a traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time periods specified in paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection, as applicable, shall be recalculated to begin from the date of conviction for the traffic offense, and must elapse before that person may be issued a Class D license. If the person has been convicted of more than one traffic offense which is reported on the driving record of that person, the time periods specified in paragraph 1 or 2 of this subsection, as applicable, shall be recalculated to begin from the most recent date of conviction, and must elapse before that person may be issued a Class D license.

F. Learner permits and intermediate Class D licenses shall be issued for the same period as all other driver licenses. The licenses may be suspended or canceled at the discretion of the Department for violation of restrictions, for failing to give the required or correct information on the application, for knowingly giving false or inaccurate information on the application or any subsequent documentation related to the granting of driving privileges, for using a hand-held electronic device while operating a motor vehicle for non-life-threatening emergency purposes or for violation of any traffic laws of this state pertaining to the operation of a motor vehicle.

G. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules establishing procedures for removal of learner permit and intermediate Class D license restrictions from the permit or license upon the permittee or licensee qualifying for a less restricted or an unrestricted license.

H. Any person fourteen (14) years of age or older may apply for a restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only restriction. After the person has successfully passed all parts of the motorcycle examination other than the driving examination, has successfully completed a certified state-approved motorcycle basic rider course approved by the Department, and has met all requirements provided for in the rules of the Department, the Department shall issue to the person a restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only restriction which shall grant to the person, while having the

license in the person's immediate possession, the privilege to operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle:

1. With a piston displacement not to exceed three hundred (300) cubic centimeters;
2. Between the hours of 4:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. only;
3. While wearing approved protective headgear; and
4. While accompanied by and receiving instruction from any person who is at least twenty-one (21) years of age and who is properly licensed pursuant to the laws of this state to operate a motorcycle or motor-driven cycle, and who has visual contact with the restricted licensee.

The restricted licensee may apply on or after thirty (30) days from date of issuance of the restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only restriction to have the restriction of being accompanied by a licensed driver removed by successfully completing the driving portion of an examination.

The written examination and driving examination for a restricted Class D license with a motorcycle-only endorsement shall be waived by the Department of Public Safety upon verification that the person has successfully completed a certified state-approved motorcycle basic rider course approved by the Department.

I. The Department may in its discretion issue a special permit to any person who has attained the age of fourteen (14) years, authorizing such person to operate farm vehicles between the farm and the market to haul commodities grown on the farm; provided, that the special permit shall be temporary and shall expire not more than thirty (30) days after the issuance of the special permit. Special permits shall be issued only to farm residents and shall be issued only during the time of the harvest of the principal crops grown on such farm. Provided, however, the Department shall not issue a special permit pursuant to this subsection until the Department is fully satisfied after the examination of the application and other evidence furnished in support thereof, that the person is physically and mentally developed to such a degree that the operation of a motor vehicle by the person would not be inimical to public safety.

J. As used in this section:

1. "Hand-held electronic device" means a mobile telephone or electronic device with which a user engages in a telephone call, plays or stores media, including but not limited to music and video, or sends or reads a text message while requiring the use of at least one hand; and

2. "Using a hand-held electronic device" means engaging any function on an electronic device.

K. All driver education courses provided for in paragraph 1 of subsection C of this section shall include education regarding the dangers of texting while driving and the effects of being under the influence of alcohol or other intoxicating substance while driving.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-110, as last amended by Section 1, Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section 6-110), is amended to read as follows:

Section 6-110. A. 1. The Department of Public Safety shall ~~examine every~~ establish procedures to ensure every applicant for an original Class A, B, C or D license and for any endorsements thereon is examined by the Department, or an approved written examination proctor, except as otherwise provided in Section 6-101 et seq. of this title or as provided in paragraph 2 of this subsection or in subsections D and E of this section. The Department is authorized to approve and enter into agreements with local school districts, the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, or institutions of higher education to act as approved written examination proctors with regard to any written examination required by this section. The examination shall include a test of the applicant's:

- a. eyesight,
- b. ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning and directing traffic,
- c. knowledge of the traffic laws of this state, including a portion on bicycle and motorcycle safety, and
- d. ability, by actual demonstration, to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle. The actual demonstration shall be conducted in the type of motor vehicle for the class of driver license being applied for.

The Department of Public Safety may create a knowledge test that may be taken on the Internet by an applicant applying for a Class D license.

Any licensee seeking to apply for a driver license of another class which is not covered by the licensee's current driver license shall be considered an applicant for an original license for that class.

2. The Department of Public Safety shall have the authority to waive the requirement of any part of the examination required in paragraph 1 of this subsection for those applicants whose driving record meets the standards set by the Department of Public Safety and surrenders either of the following:

- a. a valid unexpired driver license issued by any state or country for the same type or types of vehicles, or
- b. an expired driver license that:
 - (1) is not expired more than six (6) months past the expiration date listed on the driver license, and
 - (2) is not a Class A, B or C commercial driver license or commercial driver license permit.

3. The Department of Public Safety shall accept skills test results from another state for Class A, B or C license applicants who have successfully completed commercial motor vehicle driver training in that state and successfully passed the skills test in that state; provided, the Department shall not accept skills test results from another state when the applicant has not successfully completed commercial motor vehicle driver training in that state. Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the Department of Public Safety from administering the skills test to any applicant who has successfully completed commercial vehicle driver training in another state.

4. All applicants requiring a hazardous materials endorsement shall be required, for the renewal of the endorsement, to successfully complete the examination and to submit to a security threat assessment performed by the Transportation Security Administration of the Department of Homeland Security as required by and pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part 1572, which shall be used to

determine whether the applicant is eligible for renewal of the endorsement pursuant to federal law and regulation.

5. The Department of Public Safety, or an approved written examination proctor, shall give the complete examination as provided for in this section within thirty (30) days from the date the application is received, and the examination shall be given at a location within one hundred (100) miles of the residence of the applicant. The Department of Public Safety shall make every effort to make the examination locations and times convenient for applicants. The Department of Public Safety shall consider giving the examination at various school sites if the district board of education for the district in which the site is located agrees and if economically feasible and practicable.

B. Any person holding a valid Oklahoma Class D license or provisional driver license pursuant to Section 6-212 of this title and applying for a Class A, B or C commercial license shall be required to successfully complete all examinations as required for the specified class. Failure to submit to the Department of Public Safety federally required medical certification information pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part 391.41 et seq. shall result in an automatic downgrade of a commercial license to a Class D license. Provided, however, once the required medical certification information has been received by the Department of Public Safety, the license shall be reinstated to the classification of the commercial license prior to the downgrade and the holder of such a license shall not be required to reapply.

C. Except as provided in subsection E of Section 6-101 of this title, any person holding a valid Oklahoma Class A, B or C commercial license shall, upon time for renewal thereof, be entitled to a Class D license without any type of testing or examination, except for any endorsements thereon as otherwise provided for by Section 6-110.1 of this title.

D. 1. Any certified driver education instructor who is currently an operator or an employee of a commercial driver training school in this state or any driver education instructor employed by any school district in this state shall be eligible to apply to be a designated examiner of the Department of Public Safety for the purposes of administering the Class D driving skills portion of the Oklahoma driving examination to any person who has ~~not previously been a student of the instructor~~ been issued a learner permit.

2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt a curriculum of required courses and training to be offered to applicants who are qualified to apply to be a designated examiner. The courses and training for certification shall meet the same standards as required for driver examiners of the Department of Public Safety.

3. Each person applying to be a designated examiner shall be required to pay an initial designated examiner certification fee of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Upon successful completion of training prescribed by paragraph 2 of this subsection, the person shall be required to pay an annual designated examiner certification fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). If an applicant for the designated examiner program is employed by an Oklahoma public school system that offers driver education, and he or she administers the skills test only to students enrolled in a public school driver education program, the certification fee may be waived by the Department of Public Safety. Each designated examiner certification shall expire on the last day of the calendar year and may be renewed upon application to the Department of Public Safety. The designated examiner certification fees collected by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited to the credit of the Department of Public Safety Restricted Revolving Fund to be used for the purposes of this subsection. No designated examiner certification fee shall be refunded in the event that certification is denied, suspended or revoked.

4. A designated examiner may charge a fee of no more than Twenty-five Dollars (\$25.00) for each Class D driving skills examination given, whether the person being examined passes or fails the examination.

5. The Department of Public Safety shall conduct an annual complete nationwide criminal history background check on each designated examiner and a complete nationwide criminal history background check on each designated examiner applicant. The fees for the background check shall be borne by the designated examiner or designated examiner applicant.

6. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules to implement and administer the provisions of this subsection.

E. 1. Upon application and approval of the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, any public or private commercial truck driving school that has or maintains a program instructing students for a Class A, B or C license in the State of Oklahoma shall be

authorized to hire or employ designated examiners approved by the Department of Public Safety to be third-party examiners of the Class A, B or C driving skills portion of the Oklahoma driving examination. All designated examiners must successfully have completed the courses and training as outlined in paragraph 2 of this subsection.

2. The Department of Public Safety shall adopt a curriculum of required courses and training to be offered to third-party examiners. The courses and training for certification shall meet the same standards as required for commercial driver examiners of the Department of Public Safety.

3. The Department of Public Safety shall conduct on an annual basis a complete nationwide criminal history background check on each third-party examiner and a complete nationwide criminal history background check on each third-party examiner applicant. The fees for the background check shall be borne by the third-party examiner or third-party examiner applicant.

F. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules no later than December 15, 2019, to:

1. Implement and administer the provisions of this section based on requirements set forth in Section 383.75 of Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations;

2. Establish a process to inform any school or examiner, who has been denied, within forty-five (45) days from the denial;

3. Create an appeal process for any school or examiner denied; and

4. If the initial application for approval was denied, limit the number of times an individual school or individual examiner applicant may reapply in a calendar year to two reapplications.

SECTION 3. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health or safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the House of Representatives the 22nd day of February, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the House
of Representatives

Passed the Senate the 20th day of April, 2021.

Presiding Officer of the Senate

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Received by the Office of the Governor this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____

Approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

Governor of the State of Oklahoma

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Received by the Office of the Secretary of State this _____

day of _____, 20_____, at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By: _____