

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 58th Legislature (2021)

3 HOUSE BILL 2491

By: Frix

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to driver licenses; amending 47 O.S.
8 2011, Section 6-110, as last amended by Section 1,
9 Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp. 2020, Section
10 6-110), which relates to examination of applicants
11 for driver licenses; allowing a public transit agency
12 to hire and employ certain examiners; requiring the
Department of Public Safety to approve at least one
public transit authority meeting certain criteria;
authorizing public transit agency to use third-party
examiners; modifying date for promulgation of rules;
and providing an effective date.

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

16 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 47 O.S. 2011, Section 6-110, as
17 last amended by Section 1, Chapter 395, O.S.L. 2019 (47 O.S. Supp.
18 2020, Section 6-110), is amended to read as follows:

19 Section 6-110. A. 1. The Department of Public Safety shall
20 examine every applicant for an original Class A, B, C or D license
21 and for any endorsements thereon, except as otherwise provided in
22 Section 6-101 et seq. of this title or as provided in paragraph 2 of
23 this subsection or in subsections D and E of this section. The
24 examination shall include a test of the applicant's:

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

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

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

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

- 21 a. a valid unexpired driver license issued by any state
- 22 or country for the same type or types of vehicles, or
- 23 b. an expired driver license that:

- 1 (1) is not expired more than six (6) months past the
2 expiration date listed on the driver license, and
3 (2) is not a Class A, B or C commercial driver
4 license or commercial driver license permit.

5 3. The Department shall accept skills test results from another
6 state for Class A, B or C license applicants who have successfully
7 completed commercial motor vehicle driver training in that state and
8 successfully passed the skills test in that state; provided, the
9 Department shall not accept skills test results from another state
10 when the applicant has not successfully completed commercial motor
11 vehicle driver training in that state. Nothing in this section
12 shall be construed to prohibit the Department from administering the
13 skills test to any applicant who has successfully completed
14 commercial vehicle driver training in another state.

15 4. All applicants requiring a hazardous materials endorsement
16 shall be required, for the renewal of the endorsement, to
17 successfully complete the examination and to submit to a security
18 threat assessment performed by the Transportation Security
19 Administration of the Department of Homeland Security as required by
20 and pursuant to 49 C.F.R., Part 1572, which shall be used to
21 determine whether the applicant is eligible for renewal of the
22 endorsement pursuant to federal law and regulation.

23 5. The Department of Public Safety shall give the complete
24 examination as provided for in this section within thirty (30) days

1 from the date the application is received, and the examination shall
2 be given at a location within one hundred (100) miles of the
3 residence of the applicant. The Department shall make every effort
4 to make the examination locations and times convenient for
5 applicants. The Department shall consider giving the examination at
6 various school sites if the district board of education for the
7 district in which the site is located agrees and if economically
8 feasible and practicable.

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

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

1 except for any endorsements thereon as otherwise provided for by
2 Section 6-110.1 of this title.

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

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

16 3. Each person applying to be a designated examiner shall be
17 required to pay an initial designated examiner certification fee of
18 One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00). Upon successful completion of
19 training prescribed by paragraph 2 of this subsection, the person
20 shall be required to pay an annual designated examiner certification
21 fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00). If an applicant for the
22 designated examiner program is employed by an Oklahoma public school
23 system that offers driver education, and he or she administers the
24 skills test only to students enrolled in a public school driver

1 education program, the certification fee may be waived by the
2 Department. Each designated examiner certification shall expire on
3 the last day of the calendar year and may be renewed upon
4 application to the Department of Public Safety. The designated
5 examiner certification fees collected by the Department pursuant to
6 this subsection shall be deposited to the credit of the Department
7 of Public Safety Restricted Revolving Fund to be used for the
8 purposes of this subsection. No designated examiner certification
9 fee shall be refunded in the event that certification is denied,
10 suspended or revoked.

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

15 5. The Department shall conduct an annual complete nationwide
16 criminal history background check on each designated examiner and a
17 complete nationwide criminal history background check on each
18 designated examiner applicant. The fees for the background check
19 shall be borne by the designated examiner or designated examiner
20 applicant.

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

23 E. 1. Upon application and approval of the Commissioner of the
24 Department of Public Safety, any public or private commercial truck

1 driving school that has or maintains a program instructing students
2 for a Class A, B or C license or public transit agency in the State
3 of Oklahoma shall be authorized to hire or employ designated
4 examiners approved by the Department of Public Safety to be third-
5 party examiners of the Class A, B or C driving skills portion of the
6 Oklahoma driving examination. All designated examiners must
7 successfully have completed the courses and training as outlined in
8 paragraph 2 of this subsection. The Department of Public Safety
9 shall be required to approve at least one public transit agency that
10 has or maintains a program instructing students for a Class A, B or
11 C license to hire or employ third-party examiners pursuant to this
12 section. It shall be permissible for any public transit agency
13 operating in the State of Oklahoma to utilize the third-party
14 examiners hired or employed by a public transit agency approved by
15 the Department.

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

21 3. The Department shall conduct on an annual basis a complete
22 nationwide criminal history background check on each third-party
23 examiner and a complete nationwide criminal history background check
24 on each third-party examiner applicant. The fees for the background

1 check shall be borne by the third-party examiner or third-party
2 examiner applicant.

3 F. The Department of Public Safety shall promulgate rules no
4 later than December 15, ~~2019~~ 2020, to:

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

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

11 3. Create an appeal process for any school, public transit
12 agency or examiner denied; and

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

17 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2021.

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