

SENATE BILL 1279

By Massey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55,
relative to vision standards for a license to drive.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-50-322(a)(1)(A), is amended by deleting the subdivision and substituting instead:

(i) The department shall examine every applicant for a driver license, intermediate driver license, learner permit, temporary driver license, temporary learner permit, and temporary intermediate driver license, except as otherwise provided in this part. This examination must include a test of the applicant's:

(a) Eyesight to be administered according to standards set by the department; however, the standards must allow for operators of non-commercial vehicles to pass a general vision screening if their visual acuity is 20/50 (Snellen) or better, each eye separately, and both eyes together;

(b) Ability to read or understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; and

(c) Knowledge of the traffic laws of this state.

(ii) The examination required pursuant to (a)(1)(A)(i) must also include an actual demonstration of the driver's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle or combination of vehicles of the type covered by the license classification or endorsement that the applicant is seeking. The examination may also include further physical and mental examinations the department finds

necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.