



Oregon

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DATE: May 11, 2015

TO: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

FROM: Amy Joyce, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: House Bill 2465A – Driver License Issuance Efficiency

INTRODUCTION

Oregon statutes prescribe the types of driver licenses DMV issues to Oregonians and the requirements for each type of license. Over time, some requirements have lost their value in comparison to the effort expended by customers and DMV staff. Others may be more appropriately located in rule to allow the agency flexibility to gain efficiencies. House Bill 2465A makes several changes to statutes relating to the issuance of driving privileges, which will improve service for customers and make the DMV more efficient.

DISCUSSION

The bill contains four separate changes. First, the bill eliminates the rarely used Moped-Restricted driver license. The license allows a person at least age 16 to operate a moped only. DMV issues about 10 of these licenses per year, and there are fewer than 100 licensees total. To provide that opportunity DMV must maintain an entire program around it: knowledge and skills tests, test course and examiners; training field, phone, and headquarters personnel in the requirements for the license; and other updates any time a change is made to general license requirements. Oregonians still will be able to operate a moped; current law allows anyone with a Class C driver license to operate a moped.

Second, the bill would change the requirements for a person to demonstrate residence address. Current law requires a “document,” which has been interpreted as a physical piece of paper. Customers frequently fail to bring to the field office a document showing proof of address. This results in being turned away and a second trip. Not only is that customer frustrated, but second trips add to all customers’ wait times. The bill continues to require proof of address when applying for, renewing or replacing a driver license (permit or ID card), but will allow DMV to write rules regarding what proof is necessary to show residence address. The bill will allow DMV to accept electronic information as well as paper documents, and to use third party address verification systems. The bill includes a non-exclusive list of the types of information, in whatever format, that may be used to prove address. To be clear, nothing in the bill changes the stringent requirements for an applicant’s proof of identity and legal presence.

Third, the bill will change the way DMV verifies that a teen is enrolled in school. Under current law the teen applying for a license or permit must bring a form completed by the school showing he or she is currently enrolled and in good standing. Many teens, along with a parent, arrive at DMV to obtain a permit or license but are turned away for lack of the form. This causes frustration for the student and parent, and a second trip to DMV. That is inefficient for everyone.

The bill would require the parent to certify their child is enrolled in school before DMV may issue the license or permit. Also, the bill leaves in place the requirement to bring a form from the school in those cases where the school has already suspended the teen's ability to apply for driving privileges due to lack of attendance. This change will eliminate frustration and second trips for these customers, and longer wait times for everyone else, while maintaining the carrot of driving privileges for staying in school.

Fourth, the bill will end the requirement to administer a motorcycle knowledge test to out-of-state licensees, who already have a motorcycle endorsement, when applying for an Oregon license and endorsement. All out-of-state applicants still would take the standard rules-of-the-road knowledge test. But the motorcycle knowledge test, covering basic operation issues, provides little value for someone who already has been trained or tested in another state. This will eliminate thousands of knowledge tests each year.

SUMMARY

This bill will eliminate many requirements that can be burdensome to DMV's customers or otherwise are inefficient uses of resources in exchange for minimal value. We ask the committee to support this bill in order to continue improving services to DMV's customers by creating efficiencies in DMV's driver licensing processes.