
By: Delegate Wood

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 1996

Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Drivers' Licenses - Vision Requirements**

3 FOR the purpose of modifying vision requirements for an unrestricted driver's license to
4 require that an applicant's field of vision be continuous and clarifying that certain
5 acuity and field requirements must be met simultaneously; modifying vision
6 requirements for certain restricted licenses and modifying certain license
7 endorsement requirements; authorizing the issuance of a special restricted license
8 to an individual whose vision meets certain standards, subject to specified
9 requirements and restrictions; specifying the effect of a certain endorsement;
10 authorizing the use of bioptic telescopic lenses by drivers with a special restricted
11 license; providing that an individual licensed to operate a vehicle using bioptic
12 telescopic lenses on a specified date may continue to operate a vehicle in
13 accordance with the restrictions in effect on that date, subject to certain
14 requirements; and generally relating to vision requirements for drivers' licenses.

15 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
16 Article - Transportation
17 Section 16-110.1
18 Annotated Code of Maryland
19 (1992 Replacement Volume and 1995 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
21 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article - Transportation**

23 16-110.1.

24 (a) For an unrestricted license, each applicant is required to have:

25 (1) SIMULTANEOUSLY:

26 (I) A minimum visual acuity of 20/40 in each eye; AND

27 [(2)] (II) A CONTINUOUS field of vision of at least 140 degrees; and

28 [(3)] (2) Binocular vision.

1 (b) If the applicant's vision can be corrected by glasses or contactlenses to meet
2 the standards of this section, the Administration may issue the applicant a restricted
3 license, endorsed ["holder shall wear eye glasses or contact lenses when driving"]
4 "CORRECTIVE LENSES".

5 [(c) If the applicant has less than 20/40 vision in each eye but hasat least 20/70 in
6 one eye and at least 20/140 in the other, the Administration may issue the applicant a
7 restricted license, endorsed "daylight driving only".

8 (d) (1) If the applicant is totally blind in one eye and has at least 20/40 in the
9 other eye, the Administration may issue the applicant a restricted license, endorsed "any
10 motor vehicle which the holder drives shall have a properly placed rearview mirror and,
11 on each side of the vehicle, an outside, side view mirror".

12 (2) If the applicant is totally blind in one eye and has less than 20/40 but at
13 least 20/70 in the other eye, the Administration may issue the applicant a restricted
14 license, endorsed both as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection and "daylight
15 driving only".

16 (3) A license may not be issued to any applicant described in paragraphs (1)
17 or (2) of this subsection unless the vision in his seeing eye has been maintained at least
18 the level required by this subsection for at least 90 days before the date of application.]

19 (C) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ISSUE AN APPLICANT A RESTRICTED
20 DRIVER'S LICENSE ENDORSED "OUTSIDE MIRRORS EACH SIDE" IF THE APPLICANT
21 HAS:

22 (1) A MINIMUM VISUAL ACUITY OF AT LEAST 20/40 IN ONE EYE; AND

23 (2) SIMULTANEOUSLY:

24 (I) A VISUAL ACUITY OF LESS THAN 20/40 IN THE OTHER EYE; AND

25 (II) A CONTINUOUS FIELD OF VISION OF AT LEAST 140 DEGREES.

26 (D) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ISSUE AN APPLICANT A RESTRICTED
27 DRIVER'S LICENSE ENDORSED "OUTSIDE MIRRORS EACH SIDE" AND "LIMITED TO
28 DAYLIGHT ONLY", IF THE APPLICANT HAS SIMULTANEOUSLY:

29 (1) A MINIMUM VISUAL ACUITY OF AT LEAST 20/70 IN AT LEAST ONE
30 EYE; AND

31 (2) A CONTINUOUS FIELD OF VISION OF AT LEAST 140 DEGREES.

32 (E) (1) THE ADMINISTRATION MAY ISSUE AN APPLICANT A SPECIAL
33 RESTRICTED CLASS C NONCOMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE IF THE APPLICANT HAS:

34 (I) SIMULTANEOUSLY:

35 1. A MINIMUM VISUAL ACUITY OF 20/100 IN AT LEAST ONE
36 EYE; AND

37 2. A CONTINUOUS FIELD OF VISION OF AT LEAST 110
38 DEGREES; AND

3

1 (II) A MINIMUM OF 35 DEGREES OF VISUAL FIELD FROM CENTER
2 ON EACH SIDE.

3 (2) AN APPLICANT FOR THE SPECIAL RESTRICTED CLASS C
4 NONCOMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE SHALL:

5 (I) SUBMIT A REPORT OF EXAMINATION BY A LICENSED
6 OPHTHALMOLOGIST OR OPTOMETRIST FOR EVALUATION BY THE MEDICAL
7 ADVISORY BOARD ON FORMS PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION;

8 (II) COMPLETE THE EXAMINATION REQUIRED UNDER § 16-110 OF
9 THIS SUBTITLE; AND

10 (III) PASS A DRIVING TEST ADMINISTERED ON THE PUBLIC
11 HIGHWAYS.

12 (3) AN APPLICANT WHO IS LICENSED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
13 SUBMIT ANNUAL FOLLOW-UP REPORTS OF EXAMINATION BY A LICENSED
14 OPHTHALMOLOGIST OR OPTOMETRIST FOR REEVALUATION BY THE MEDICAL
15 ADVISORY BOARD ON FORMS PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

16 (4) A DRIVER'S LICENSE ISSUED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL
17 CONTAIN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING ENDORSEMENTS APPLICABLE TO THE
18 LICENSEE:

19 (I) "OUTSIDE MIRRORS EACH SIDE";

20 (II) "LIMITED TO DAYLIGHT ONLY";

21 (III) "VEHICLE 10,000 POUNDS OR LESS";

22 (IV) "NO HIGHWAYS WITH POSTED SPEED LIMITS EXCEEDING 45
23 MILES PER HOUR"; AND

24 (V) ANY OTHER RESTRICTION IMPOSED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

25 (F) A LICENSE ENDORSED "LIMITED TO DAYLIGHT ONLY" AUTHORIZES THE
26 LICENSEE TO OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE ONLY DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING
27 ONE-HALF HOUR AFTER SUNRISE AND ENDING ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNSET.

28 (G) A DRIVER ISSUED A LICENSE UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (E)
29 OF THIS SECTION MAY USE, BUT IS NOT REQUIRED TO USE, BIOPTIC TELESCOPIC
30 LENSES WHILE DRIVING.

31 (H) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS A LICENSE ON JUNE 30, 1996, TO OPERATE A
32 VEHICLE WHILE USING BIOPTIC TELESCOPIC LENSES, MAY CONTINUE TO OPERATE
33 A MOTOR VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ANY RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE ON THAT
34 DATE IF:

35 (1) THE INDIVIDUAL SUBMITS AN ANNUAL REPORT OF EXAMINATION
36 BY A LICENSED OPHTHALMOLOGIST OR OPTOMETRIST FOR REEVALUATION BY THE
37 MEDICAL ADVISORY BOARD ON FORMS PROVIDED BY THE ADMINISTRATION; AND

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1 (2) THE INDIVIDUAL REMAINS ELIGIBLE FOR A LICENSE TO OPERATE A
2 MOTOR VEHICLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH VISION REQUIREMENTS THAT WOULD
3 HAVE APPLIED ON THAT DATE.

4 [(e)] (I) The Administration may not issue any driver's license if the applicant
5 does not meet the standards of this section.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 July 1, 1996.