

By: **Delegate Glassman**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2004

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws - Driver's License Renewal - Extension**

3 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to extend an
4 individual's privilege to drive for a certain period if operating conditions prevent
5 the Administration from processing the individual's driver's license renewal
6 application in a timely manner; requiring the Administration to adopt certain
7 regulations; and generally relating to driver's license renewals and extensions.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article - Transportation
10 Section 16-115
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2002 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

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

15 **Article - Transportation**

16 16-115.

17 (a) (1) A license issued under this title to a driver at least 21 years old shall
18 expire on the birth date of the licensee in the fifth year following the issuance of the
19 license.

20 (2) A license issued under this title to a driver under the age of 21 years
21 shall expire 60 days after the driver's 21st birthday.

22 (3) A license is renewable on the presentation of an application, the
23 payment of the renewal fee required by § 16-111.1 of this subtitle, and satisfactory
24 completion of the examination required or authorized by subsection (h) of this section:

25 (i) Within 6 months before its expiration; or

26 (ii) When a driver qualifies for a corrected license issued under §
27 16-114.1(c) of this subtitle.

1 (4) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, the
2 Administration may not renew an individual's license for more than one consecutive
3 term without requiring the individual to appear in person at an office of the
4 Administration.

5 (b) At least 60 days before a license expires, the Administration shall mail to
6 each licensee, at the last address of the licensee shown in the records of the
7 Administration, notice of the date on which the license will expire.

8 (c) The Administration may renew a license within 1 year after the expiration
9 date without requiring a driving test.

10 (d) (1) A license held by a member of the armed forces of the United States
11 who is absent from this State on active service in the armed forces of the United
12 States, or a dependent of the member who is residing with the member outside the
13 State, shall remain in full force and effect during such absence.

14 (2) The license also shall remain in effect, if it would otherwise have
15 expired under this section, for a period of 30 days following the date of the licensee's
16 return to this State, or the member's discharge or separation from active service:

17 (i) If the licensee has in the licensee's immediate possession,
18 together with the licensee's driver's license, papers indicating the member's active
19 service outside this State or the member's discharge or separation; and

20 (ii) If the license is not otherwise suspended, revoked, or canceled
21 under this title during the 30-day period.

22 (e) If a licensee is absent from this State for cause, other than as provided in
23 subsection (d) of this section, and is unable to renew his license in the manner
24 required by this section, the licensee may renew by mail to the Administration. The
25 renewal application shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee and a statement
26 giving the reason for and the expected length of the absence. On receipt of the
27 application, the Administration may issue a regular license which bears a photo or a
28 notation that it is valid without a photo until 15 days after the licensee first returns
29 to this State.

30 (f) An individual may not drive a motor vehicle on any highway in this State
31 if the license issued to him under this title has expired.

32 (g) An individual may not attempt to drive a motor vehicle on any highway in
33 this State if the license issued to the individual under this title has expired.

34 (h) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, the
35 Administration shall require every individual applying for renewal of a driver's
36 license to pass a vision test as prescribed by the Administration.

37 (2) (i) The Administration shall accept a certification of acceptable
38 visual acuity from a licensed physician or optometrist instead of requiring the actual
39 test provided for in this subsection.

1 (ii) The examination for which certification is made shall take place
2 within 12 months of the date of application for renewal.

3 (3) (i) If the Administration has reason to believe that an individual is
4 a safety hazard by reason of a vision deficiency, the Administration may require the
5 vision test provided for in this subsection at a time other than renewal of a driver's
6 license.

7 (ii) The Administration may adopt regulations to implement the
8 provisions of this subsection.

9 (i) Before the expiration of a driver's license, if the Administration has reason
10 to believe that an individual is not a safety hazard, but the individual is unable to
11 pass a required knowledge test or vision test, the Administration may extend the
12 individual's privilege to drive for a period not to exceed 90 days.

13 (J) (1) BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S DRIVER'S LICENSE, IF
14 OPERATING CONDITIONS PREVENT THE ADMINISTRATION FROM PROCESSING THE
15 INDIVIDUAL'S APPLICATION FOR A DRIVER'S LICENSE RENEWAL IN A TIMELY
16 MANNER, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY EXTEND THE INDIVIDUAL'S PRIVILEGE TO
17 DRIVE FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 30 DAYS.

18 (2) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT
19 THIS SUBSECTION.

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
21 October 1, 2004.