

## Chapter 139

**(House Bill 730)**

AN ACT concerning

**Driver's Licenses, Learner's Instructional Permits, and Identification Cards – Applications and Renewals**

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Motor Vehicle Administration to extend the period of time that an identification card remains effective by a certain amount under certain circumstances; altering the documentation that certain applicants for a learner's instructional permit are required to present to the Administration; altering the time period before expiration within which a driver's license is renewable; altering the standards for determining whether an individual is required to appear in person to renew the individual's driver's license; altering the time period within which a certain visual test is required to take place before application for driver's license renewal; and generally relating to applications and renewals for driver's licenses, learner's instructional permits, and identification cards.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 12–301(a) and 16–115(a)(1) and (2) and (i)(1)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Transportation

Section 12–301(i), 16–105(a), and 16–115(a)(3) and (4) and (i)(2)

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2020 Replacement Volume)

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

**Article – Transportation**

12–301.

(a) On application, the Administration shall issue an identification card to any applicant who:

- (1) Is a resident of this State;
- (2) Does not have a driver's license;
- (3) Presents a birth certificate or other proof of age and identity acceptable

to the Administration;

(4) Provides satisfactory documentary evidence that the applicant has lawful status;

(5) (i) Provides satisfactory documentary evidence that the applicant has a valid Social Security number by presenting the applicant's Social Security Administration account card or, if the Social Security Administration account card is not available, any of the following documents bearing the applicant's Social Security number:

1. A current W-2 form;
2. A current SSA-1099 form;
3. A current non-SSA-1099 form; or
4. A current pay stub with the applicant's name and Social Security number on it; or

(ii) Provides satisfactory documentary evidence that the applicant is not eligible for a Social Security number; and

(6) Presents a completed application for an identification card on a form furnished by the Administration.

(i) (1) Subject to [paragraph] PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) of this subsection, an identification card issued to an applicant expires at the end of a period of not more than 8 years determined in regulations adopted by the Administration.

**(2) BEFORE THE EXPIRATION OF AN IDENTIFICATION CARD, IF AN INDIVIDUAL DOES NOT POSSESS ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED FOR RENEWAL, THE ADMINISTRATION MAY EXTEND THE INDIVIDUAL'S IDENTIFICATION CARD FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED 90 DAYS.**

**[(2)] (3)** (i) If an applicant has temporary lawful status, the Administration may not issue an identification card to the applicant for a period that extends beyond the expiration date of the applicant's authorized stay in the United States or, if there is no expiration date, for a period longer than 1 year.

(ii) Nothing contained in this paragraph may be construed to allow the issuance of an identification card for a period longer than the period described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(iii) The Administration shall indicate on the face and in the machine-readable zone of a temporary identification card issued under this paragraph that the card is a temporary identification card.

**[(3)] (4)** An identification card may be renewed on application and payment of the fee required by this section.

16-105.

(a) (1) Any individual who desires to obtain an original driver's license under this subtitle or to be licensed in a class for which the individual is not already licensed under this subtitle shall apply to the Administration for the desired driver's license.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, before issuing a driver's license, the Administration shall issue to each applicant a learner's instructional permit. The learner's instructional permit shall identify clearly the class of license for which the applicant has applied.

(3) (i) Each applicant for a learner's instructional permit who is under the age of 16 years shall present to the Administration a **[certified]** copy of the applicant's school attendance record.

(ii) The Administration may not issue a learner's instructional permit to an applicant under the age of 16 years if the applicant's school attendance record indicates more than 10 unexcused absences during the prior school semester.

16-115.

(a) (1) Subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, a license issued under this title to a driver at least 21 years old shall expire on the birth date of the licensee at the end of a period of not more than 8 years determined in regulations adopted by the Administration following the issuance of the license.

(2) Subject to paragraph (5) of this subsection, a license issued under this title to a driver under the age of 21 years shall expire not later than 60 days after the driver's 21st birthday.

(3) A license is renewable on the presentation of an application, the payment of the renewal fee required by Section 16.111.1 of this subtitle, and satisfactory completion of the examination required or authorized by subsection (i) of this section:

(i) Within **[6] 12** months before its expiration; or

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

(4) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the Administration may **[not]** renew an individual's license **[for more than one consecutive term]** without requiring the individual to appear in person **[at an office of the Administration]** **IF THE**

**PHOTOGRAPH FOR THE INDIVIDUAL WAS TAKEN LESS THAN 16 YEARS BEFORE THE RENEWAL.**

(i) (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subsection, the Administration shall require every individual applying for a renewal of a driver's license to pass a vision test as prescribed by the Administration.

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

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

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

**Approved by the Governor, May 18, 2021.**