

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 296 (Delegate Stein)

Environment and Transportation

Judicial Proceedings

Driver's Licenses - Older Licensees - In-Person Renewal

This bill generally requires a person age 85 or older to appear in person at an office of the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) in order to renew a driver's license.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State finances or operations.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: A Maryland noncommercial driver's license issued to an applicant age 21 or older is valid for a maximum of eight years. MVA typically sends a renewal notice at least 60 days before a license expiration date. However, an applicant does not need the notice to apply. If the applicant is age 25 or older, the individual is permitted to apply for a renewal license at any time during the period from six months before the license expires to one year after it expires. (However, a person is prohibited from driving – or attempting to drive – with an expired license.)

If an individual is younger than age 21, the applicant must wait until his or her twenty-first birthday or thereafter to renew; the applicant's license will expire no later than 60 days after his or her twenty-first birthday.

MVA is generally prohibited from renewing an individual's license for more than one consecutive term without requiring the individual to appear in person at an MVA office.

However, if a licensee is absent from the State for cause, and is unable to renew a license in the appropriate manner, the licensee may renew by mail to MVA. The renewal application must be accompanied by the prescribed fee and a statement giving the reason for (and the expected length of) the absence. On receipt of the application, MVA may issue a regular license which bears a photo or notation that it is valid without a photo until 15 days after the licensee first returns to the State.

Other exceptions apply for members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their dependents.

The renewal fee for an eight-year noncommercial driver's license is \$48.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 1191 of 2020 passed the House and was referred to the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: SB 75 (Senator Hettleman) - Judicial Proceedings.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Transportation; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 12, 2021
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