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HB 777 Original   2026 Regular Session   McMakin

Abstract: Mandates the completion of a driver's knowledge examination for the renewal of Class "E' driver's licenses.

Present law requires a third-party tester provide students a dept.-approved certificate of successful completion of the instruction and skills test in a sealed envelope to be delivered to the dept.

Proposed law retains present law but removes the requirement that a third-party tester provide students a dept.-approved certificate of successful completion of the instruction and skills test in a sealed envelope to be delivered to the dept.

Present law requires drivers applying for Class "E" licenses to pass a written knowledge and skills test upon their initial application for the credential.

Proposed law requires drivers renewing Class "E" licenses to pass a driver's knowledge examination based on the requirements provided for in proposed law.

Proposed law requires the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections (DPS&C), office of motor vehicles (OMV), or an authorized third party to develop and administer the knowledge examination based on an assessment of the driver's knowledge of traffic laws of this state, roadway signage and markings, and safe driving practices, including but not limited to distracted driving laws and emerging roadway conditions.

Proposed law requires the form of the examination be administered through one of the following methods:

(1)   Electronically via a secure online platform.
(2)   In person at official OMV locations.
(3)   Electronically via or remote service units, if made available by the OMV.

Proposed law requires the examination be made accessible in various formats, including but not limited to:

(1)   Multiple language options.
(2)   Audio or written large-print formats.
(3)   Any other reasonable accommodations in accordance with applicable state and federal law.

Proposed law requires the driver obtain a minimum of 80% on the knowledge examination prior to renewal of the license. Further allows drivers to take the examination three times without an additional fee.

Proposed law specifies that failure to timely complete the examination will not result in the suspension or revocation of the driver's license. Further specifies that the dept. may offer a temporary renewal license that is valid for a period not to exceed 90 days, during which the applicant may retake and successfully complete the examination. Additionally requires the driver's license be automatically suspended if the knowledge examination is not successfully completed within the 90 days.

Proposed law specifies that no additional fee can be charged for the administration of the knowledge examination when taken in conjunction with a license renewal.

Proposed law requires that the examination apply uniformly to all Class "E" driver renewals and not impose additional requirements based solely upon the age of the driver.

Proposed law requires the DPS&C, OMV, submit an annual report to the House and Senate Committees on transportation, highways and public works no later than Feb. 1st and include the following:

(1)   The number of knowledge examinations administered.
(2)   The pass and failure rates.
(3)   The administrative costs associated with the implementation of this Subsection.
(4)   Any recommendations for statutory or regulatory changes.

Proposed law requires the DPS&C, OMV, to implement a public education program prior to the effective date of the proposed law, including the availability of practice knowledge examinations and educational materials.

Makes implementation of the public education component of proposed law effective upon signature of the governor. Makes implementation of the renewal examination applicable to Class "E" licenses effective on Jan. 1, 2028.

(Amends R.S. 32:402.1(A)(2)(intro. para.); Adds R.S. 32:408(I))