

Subject Driver and vehicle services; independent review

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Overview

This bill amends a variety of provisions related to driver and vehicle services, deputy registrars, and driver's license agents, including to:

- establish a minimum of at least 40 exam stations for driver's license road tests;
- authorize some deputy registrars and driver's license agents to issue copies of records;
- reallocate a portion of filing fee revenue obtained from mailed and online transactions for both motor vehicles and driver's licenses and identification cards, which includes creating a statutory appropriation to distribute funds to deputy registrars and driver's license agents;
- increase the filing fee for driver's license transactions;
- lengthen the valid period of issuance for most driver's licenses, operator permits, and identification cards, from four to eight years;
- waive knowledge and road test requirements for some applicants who possess a driver's license issued by another state; and
- require some legislative reports.

The bill is based on recommendations contained in an independent expert review of exam stations and other aspects of the department's administrative practices, which was performed as a result of legislation enacted in 2021.¹

Changes are effective August 1, 2022.

¹ The report is available at: https://www.lrl.mn.gov/mndocs/mandates_detail?orderid=16778.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Full-service provider.</p> <p>Defines “full-service provider” in the chapter of state statutes on motor vehicle registration, to refer to an individual or entity who is appointed as both a deputy registrar (authorized to handle motor vehicle registrations and titling applications) and a driver’s license agent (authorized to handle driver’s license and identification card applications).</p>
2	<p>Records and fees.</p> <p>Directs full-service providers to issue copies of motor vehicle and driver’s license records to eligible applicants. Provides for fee revenue allocation.</p>
3	<p>Requests for information; surcharge on fee.</p> <p>Directs full-service providers to impose a surcharge on requests for public information on motor vehicle registrations or driver’s licenses and identification cards. Provides for fee revenue allocation.</p>
4	<p>Exception to fee and surcharge.</p> <p>Makes conforming changes.</p>
5	<p>Filing fees; allocations.</p> <p>Amends the allocation of filing fee revenue collected for mailed and online motor vehicle transactions, so that a portion is deposited in a new full-service provider account (being established in the bill).</p>
6	<p>Use of vehicle registration information.</p> <p>Authorizes release of vehicle information to that vehicle’s owners and lessees under some circumstances.</p>
7	<p>Reports confidential; evidence, fee, penalty, appropriation.</p> <p>Permits full-service providers to release crash reports to authorized recipients. Provides for fee revenue allocation. Makes technical changes.</p>
8	<p>Full-service provider.</p> <p>Defines “full-service provider” in the chapter of state statutes on driver’s licenses and identification cards.</p>
9	<p>Motorized bicycle.</p> <p>Lengthens the valid period of a motorized bicycle operator’s permit, from four to eight years (when issued to an applicant who is at least age 21).</p>

Section	Description
10	Fees. Amends the allocation of filing fee revenue collected for online and mailed driver's license transactions, so that half is deposited in a new full-service provider account (being established in the bill).
11	Fee; equipment. Modifies the filing fee imposed by a driver's license agent for a driver's license transaction, to increase it from \$8 to either \$11 or \$16 depending on the type of license involved.
12	Identification card expiration. Lengthens the typical valid period of a Minnesota identification card, from four to eight years. (Identification cards that are not REAL ID-compliant remain valid for the lifetime of an applicant is who age 65 or older.)
13	Variance for homebound individuals. Makes a conforming change, to allow for photographs submitted within the past eight years as part of an identification card issuance under a variance for homebound individuals.
14	Driver and vehicle services information system; security and auditing. Amends requirements on halting MNDRIVE access privileges. Directs the department to create an appeals process following revocation of access privileges.
15	Examination subjects and locations; provisions for color blindness, disabled veterans. Sets a minimum of 40 exam stations statewide.
16	Waiver when license issued by another jurisdiction. Removes the knowledge exam and road test requirements for an applicant for a driver's license or motorcycle endorsement who is at least 21 and holds a license or endorsement from another state that requires similar examinations.
17	Expiration. Lengthens the typical valid period of a driver's license, from four to eight years. (Issuance periods for under-21 and provisional licenses are unchanged.)
18	Extension of expiration. Modifies a driver's license expiration extension provision for eligible license holders who are outside the state, to lengthen the minimum valid period of a driver's license from four to eight years.

Section	Description
19	<p>Vehicle services operating account.</p> <p>Appropriates an amount to be specified from the vehicle services operating account on a per online or mailed transaction basis.</p>
20	<p>Driver services operating account.</p> <p>Appropriates an amount to be specified from the driver services operating account on a per online or mailed transaction basis.</p>
21	<p>Full-service provider account.</p> <p>Establishes a full-service provider account in the special revenue fund. Makes a statutory appropriation of available funds in the account to the Department of Public Safety for distribution to full-service providers on a quarterly basis. The distribution is proportional based on transactions completed by each provider.</p>
22	<p>Report; transition to digital titles and drivers' licenses.</p> <p>Directs the Department of Public Safety to provide a legislative report on transitioning to digital driver's licenses and vehicle documents. Specifies aspects to include in the report. Makes the report due by December 15, 2022.</p>
23	<p>Report; Department of Natural Resources; potential use of MNDRIVE.</p> <p>Directs the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide a legislative report on potential of transition from the DNR system of watercraft and off-road vehicle registration to use MNDRIVE. Specifies aspects to include in the report. Makes the report due by December 15, 2022.</p>
24	<p>Report; implementation of driver and vehicle services recommendations.</p> <p>Paragraph (a) identifies a list for driver and vehicle services to consider in agency practice changes and areas of further analysis by the department, based on recommendations in the independent expert review submitted in January, 2022.</p> <p>Paragraph (b) directs the Department of Public Safety to provide a legislative report on implementation or nonimplementation of each identified recommendation. Specifies details to include in the report. Makes the report due by December 15, 2022.</p>
25	<p>Effective date.</p> <p>Makes the act effective August 1, 2022, unless specified otherwise.</p>



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