

STATE OF NEW YORK

4447--A

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 4, 2021

Introduced by Sens. JORDAN, AKSHAR, ORTT -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to driving privilege licenses and making technical corrections; to amend the election law, in relation to registering to vote on an application for a motor vehicle driver's license

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Section 501 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by
2 adding a new subdivision 7 to read as follows:

3 7. Driving privilege licenses. (a) The commissioner shall issue driv-
4 ing privilege licenses as provided in this article. Such license shall
5 be valid only for the operation of a motor vehicle of a type which could
6 be operated by the holder of the class of license for which application
7 is being made, provided, however that no driving privilege license shall
8 be issued which would be equivalent to a commercial driver's license.

9 (b) (i) No governmental entity shall accept a driving privilege
10 license as proof of personal identification.

11 (ii) No driving privilege license shall be used as a document provid-
12 ing proof of a person's age for any government required purpose.

13 § 2. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as
14 amended by chapter 440 of the laws of 2021, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall
17 be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted
18 with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identi-
19 ty, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. With
20 respect to a [~~non-commercial driver's~~ driving privilege license or
21 learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identifica-

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

LBD09349-02-1

1 tion, in addition to the acceptable proofs of age and identity approved
2 by the commissioner as of January first, two thousand nineteen, accepta-
3 ble proof of identity shall also include, but not be limited to, a
4 valid, unexpired foreign passport issued by the applicant's country of
5 citizenship (which shall also be eligible as proof of age), a valid,
6 unexpired consular identification document issued by a consulate from
7 the applicant's country of citizenship, or a valid foreign driver's
8 license that includes a photo image of the applicant and which is unex-
9 pired or expired for less than twenty-four months of its date of expira-
10 tion, as primary forms of such proof. Nothing contained in this subdivi-
11 sion shall be deemed to preclude the commissioner from approving
12 additional proofs of identity and age. The commissioner may also
13 provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of a
14 photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and
15 regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commission-
16 er also shall require that the applicant provide his or her social secu-
17 rity number or, in lieu thereof, with respect to an application for a
18 ~~[non-commercial driver's]~~ driving privilege license or learner's permit
19 which does not meet federal standards for identification, an affidavit
20 signed by such applicant that they have not been issued a social securi-
21 ty number. The commissioner also shall provide space on the application
22 so that the applicant may request a notation upon such license that he
23 or she is a veteran of the United States armed forces, and space on the
24 application so that the applicant may register in the New York state
25 organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of
26 the public health law with the following stated on the application in
27 clear and conspicuous type:

28 "You must fill out the following section: Would you like to be added
29 to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this ques-
30 tion'."

31 The commissioner of health shall not maintain records of any person
32 who checks "skip this question". Except where the application is made in
33 person or electronically, failure to check a box shall not impair the
34 validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip
35 this question" shall not be construed to imply a wish not to donate. In
36 the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes"
37 shall not constitute consent to make an anatomical gift or registration
38 in the donate life registry, except as otherwise provided pursuant to
39 the provisions of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section forty-
40 three hundred one of the public health law. Where an applicant has
41 previously consented to make an anatomical gift or registered in the
42 donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or failing to check
43 a box shall not impair that consent or registration. In addition, an
44 applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commer-
45 cial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such appli-
46 cant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as
47 set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of
48 federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United
49 States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials trans-
50 portation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's
51 license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required
52 by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part
53 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to
54 medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner.
55 For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, five
56 hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical

1 certificate" and "medical certification" shall mean a form substantially
2 in compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of
3 the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of
4 a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect
5 to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such
6 license.

7 § 2-a. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law,
8 as separately amended by chapters 158 and 440 of the laws of
9 2021, is amended to read as follows:

10 1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall
11 be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted
12 with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identi-
13 ty, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. With
14 respect to a [~~non-commercial driver's~~] driving privilege license or
15 learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identifica-
16 tion, in addition to the acceptable proofs of age and identity approved
17 by the commissioner as of January first, two thousand nineteen, accepta-
18 ble proof of identity shall also include, but not be limited to, a
19 valid, unexpired foreign passport issued by the applicant's country of
20 citizenship (which shall also be eligible as proof of age), a valid,
21 unexpired consular identification document issued by a consulate from
22 the applicant's country of citizenship, or a valid foreign driver's
23 license that includes a photo image of the applicant and which is unex-
24 pired or expired for less than twenty-four months of its date of expira-
25 tion, as primary forms of such proof. Nothing contained in this subdivi-
26 sion shall be deemed to preclude the commissioner from approving
27 additional proofs of identity and age. The license shall display the
28 sex designation of M, F, or X as certified by the applicant, with no
29 additional documentation required. The applicant may amend the sex
30 designation of their driver's license upon request. Upon amendment of
31 the sex designation, the change shall be made consistent through all
32 affiliated records within the control of the department. The commission-
33 er may also provide that the application procedure shall include the
34 taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with
35 rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the
36 commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide such appli-
37 cant's social security number or, in lieu thereof, with respect to an
38 application for a [~~non-commercial driver's~~] driving privilege license or
39 learner's permit which does not meet federal standards for identifica-
40 tion, an affidavit signed by such applicant that they have not been
41 issued a social security number. The commissioner also shall provide
42 space on the application so that the applicant may request a notation
43 upon such license that such applicant is a veteran of the United States
44 armed forces, and space on the application so that the applicant may
45 request a notation upon such license that he or she is a veteran of the
46 United States armed forces, and space on the application so that the
47 applicant may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor
48 registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law
49 with the following stated on the application in clear and conspicuous
50 type:

51 "You must fill out the following section: Would you like to be added
52 to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this ques-
53 tion'."

54 The commissioner of health shall not maintain records of any person
55 who checks "skip this question". Except where the application is made in
56 person or electronically, failure to check a box shall not impair the

1 validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip
2 this question" shall not be construed to imply a wish not to donate. In
3 the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes"
4 shall not constitute consent to make an anatomical gift or registration
5 in the donate life registry, except as otherwise provided pursuant to
6 the provisions of paragraph (b) of subdivision one of section forty-
7 three hundred one of the public health law. Where an applicant has
8 previously consented to make an anatomical gift or registered in the
9 donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or failing to check
10 a box shall not impair that consent or registration. In addition, an
11 applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commer-
12 cial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such appli-
13 cant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as
14 set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of
15 federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United
16 States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials trans-
17 portation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's
18 license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required
19 by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part
20 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to
21 medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner.
22 For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, five
23 hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical
24 certificate" and "medical certification" shall mean a form substantially
25 in compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of
26 the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of
27 a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect
28 to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such
29 license.

30 § 3. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 6 of section 502 of the vehicle and
31 traffic law, as amended by chapter 37 of the laws of 2019, is amended to
32 read as follows:

33 (a) A license issued pursuant to subdivision five of this section
34 shall be valid until the expiration date contained thereon, unless such
35 license is suspended, revoked or cancelled. Such license may be renewed
36 by submission of an application for renewal, the fee prescribed by law,
37 proofs of prior licensing, fitness and acceptable vision prescribed by
38 the commissioner, the applicant's social security number or, in lieu
39 thereof, with respect to an application for a [~~non-commercial driver's~~
40 driving privilege license or learner's permit which does not meet feder-
41 al standards for identification, an affidavit signed by such applicant
42 that they have not been issued a social security number, and if required
43 by the commissioner, a photo image of the applicant in such numbers and
44 form as the commissioner shall prescribe. In addition, an applicant for
45 renewal of a license containing a hazardous material endorsement shall
46 pass an examination to retain such endorsement. The commissioner shall,
47 with respect to the renewal of a hazardous materials endorsement, comply
48 with the requirements imposed upon states by sections 383.141 and
49 1572.13 of title 49 of the code of federal regulations. A renewal of
50 such license shall be issued by the commissioner upon approval of such
51 application, except that no such license shall be issued if its issuance
52 would be inconsistent with the provisions of section five hundred
53 sixteen of this title, and except that the commissioner may refuse to
54 renew such license if the applicant is the holder of a currently valid
55 or renewable license to drive issued by another state or foreign country
56 unless the applicant surrenders such license.

1 § 4. Subdivision 8 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as
2 added by chapter 37 of the laws of 2019, is amended to read as follows:

3 8. [~~Non-commercial drivers~~] Driving privilege licenses and learners'
4 permits which do not meet federal standards for identification. [~~(a)~~
5 ~~Non-commercial drivers~~] Driving privilege licenses and learners'
6 permits which do not meet federal standards for identification shall be
7 issued in such form as the commissioner shall determine, provided that
8 such licenses and permits shall be visually identical to [~~non-commercial~~
9 ~~drivers~~] driving privilege licenses and learners' permits which do meet
10 federal standards for identification except that such licenses and
11 permits may state "Not for Federal Purposes". Provided, however, that
12 the commissioner may promulgate regulations providing for additional
13 design or color indicators for both such [~~non-commercial drivers~~] driv-
14 ing privilege licenses and learners' permits if required to comply with
15 federal law.

16 8-a. Driving privilege licenses and learners' permits applied for with
17 alternative forms of identification. (a) Driving privilege licenses and
18 learners' permits applied for with alternative forms of identification
19 shall be issued in such form as the commissioner shall determine,
20 provided that such licenses and permits shall be visually distinct to
21 non-commercial drivers' licenses and learners' permits which do meet
22 federal standards for identification including, but not limited to, that
23 such licenses and permits shall state a phrase substantially similar to
24 "FOR DRIVING PRIVILEGES ONLY - NOT VALID FOR IDENTIFICATION". Provided,
25 however, that the commissioner may promulgate regulations providing for
26 additional design or color indicators for driving privilege licenses and
27 learners' permits applied for with alternative forms of identification
28 if required to comply with federal law. As used in this section "alter-
29 native forms of identification" shall mean a valid, unexpired foreign
30 passport issued by an applicant's country of citizenship (which shall
31 also be eligible as proof of age), a valid, unexpired consular identifi-
32 cation document issued by a consulate from the applicant's country of
33 citizenship, or a valid foreign driver's license that includes a photo
34 image of the applicant and which is unexpired or expired for less than
35 twenty-four months of its date of expiration.

36 (b) Applicants for a [~~non-commercial driver's~~] driving privilege
37 license or learner's permit applied for with alternative forms of iden-
38 tification or a renewal thereof shall not be required to prove that they
39 are lawfully present in the United States.

40 (c) Application forms for [~~non-commercial drivers~~] driving privilege
41 licenses and learners' permits [~~which do not meet federal standards for~~
42 applied for with alternative forms of identification or for renewal
43 thereof shall not state (i) the documents an applicant used to prove age
44 or identity, or (ii) an applicant's ineligibility for a social security
45 number where applicable, or (iii) an applicant's citizenship or immi-
46 gration status.

47 (d) The commissioner and any agent or employee of the commissioner
48 shall not retain the documents or copies of documents presented by
49 applicants for [~~non-commercial drivers~~] driving privilege licenses or
50 learners' permits [~~which do not meet federal standards for~~] applied for
51 with alternative forms of identification to prove age or identity except
52 for a limited period necessary to ensure the validity and authenticity
53 of such documents.

54 (e) (i) A [~~non-commercial driver's~~] driving privilege license or
55 learner's permit [~~which does not meet federal standards for~~] applied for
56 with alternative forms of identification shall not be used as evidence

1 of a person's citizenship or immigration status, and shall not be the
2 basis for investigating, arresting, or detaining a person. (ii) Neither
3 the commissioner nor any agent or employee of the commissioner shall
4 inquire about the citizenship or immigration status of any applicant for
5 a [~~non-commercial driver's~~] driving privilege license or learner's
6 permit [~~which does not meet federal standards for~~] applied for with
7 alternative forms of identification.

8 § 5. Subdivision 3 of section 5-212 of the election law, as added by
9 chapter 659 of the laws of 1994, is amended to read as follows:

10 3. The voter registration portion of such forms:

11 (a) shall not require any information that duplicates the information
12 required on the application for the driver license portion and shall
13 require only such additional information, including the applicant's
14 signature, as will enable election officials to assess the applicant's
15 eligibility to register to vote, prevent duplicate registration and to
16 administer voter registration and other parts of the election process.

17 (b) shall include a statement of the eligibility requirements for
18 voter registration and shall require the applicant to attest by his or
19 her signature that he or she meets those requirements under penalty of
20 perjury.

21 (c) shall inform the applicant, in print identical to that used in the
22 attestation section of the following:

23 (i) voter eligibility requirements;

24 (ii) penalties for submission of false registration application;

25 (iii) that the office where applicant registers shall remain confiden-
26 tial and the information be used only for voter registration purposes;

27 (iv) if the applicant declines to register, his or her declination
28 shall remain confidential and be used only for voter registration
29 purposes[+].

30 (d) notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, shall
31 require the applicant to provide his or her social security number.

32 § 6. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that
33 the amendments to subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traf-
34 fic law made by section two of this act shall be subject to the expira-
35 tion of such subdivision, when upon such date the provisions of section
36 two-a of this act shall take effect.