STATE OF NEW YORK

1950

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 14, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. ROSENTHAL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to health care proxy information on driver's licenses; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Section 490 of the vehicle and traffic law is amended by adding a new subdivision 2-a to read as follows:

2-a. In addition to the provisions of subdivision two of this section, the commissioner shall ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate a declaration relating to the designation of a health care proxy pursuant to section twenty-nine hundred eighty-one of the public health law and that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Have you completed a health care proxy? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'." Followed by a space for the health care agent's name.

The commissioner shall also ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate a declaration relating to the use of life-sustaining treatment and that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Have you completed a living will? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner shall make whatever provisions are feasible and desirable to maintain and issue all suitable documents regarding advanced directives at driver's license examining offices.

§ 2. Paragraph (b) of subdivision 3 of section 490 of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by section 97 of part PP of chapter 56 of the laws of 2022, is amended to read as follows:

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

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(b) The identification card shall contain a distinguishing number or mark and adequate space upon which an anatomical gift, pursuant to article forty-three of the public health law, **a declaration relating to a health care proxy, pursuant to section twenty-nine hundred eighty-one of the public health law, and a declaration relating to the use of life-sustaining treatments** by the holder may be recorded and shall contain such other information and shall be issued in such form as the commissioner shall determine; provided, however, every identification card or renewal thereof issued to a person under the age of twenty-one years shall have prominently imprinted thereon the statement "UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE" in notably distinctive print or format. Provided, further, however, that every identification card issued to an applicant who was a member of the armed forces of the United States and (i) received an honorable discharge or was released therefrom under honorable conditions, or (ii) has a qualifying condition, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, or (iii) is a discharged LGBT veteran, as defined in section one of the veterans' services law, and has received a discharge other than bad conduct or dishonorable from such service, shall, upon [~~his or her~~] **the applicant's** request and submission of proof as set forth herein, contain a distinguishing mark, in such form as the commissioner shall determine, indicating that [~~he or she~~] **the applicant** is a veteran. Such proof shall consist of a certificate of release or discharge from active duty including but not limited to a DD Form 214 or other proof satisfactory to the commissioner. The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such identification cards or renewals thereof to persons under twenty-one years of age which are different from the fees required for the issuance of identification cards or renewals thereof to persons twenty-one years of age or over, nor fees to persons requesting a veteran distinguishing mark which are different from fees that would otherwise be required. Provided, however, that notwithstanding the provisions of section four hundred ninety-one of this article, the commissioner shall not require any fees for the duplication or amendment of an identification card prior to its renewal if such duplication or amendment was solely for the purpose of adding a veteran distinguishing mark to such identification card.

§ 3. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law is REPEALED and a new subdivision 1 is added to read as follows:

1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. Eligibility for a driver's license shall not be conditioned on a particular immigration status. The commissioner may also provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide the applicant's social security number where such applicant is a legal immigrant and shall provide space on the application so that the applicant may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law with the following stated on the application in clear and conspicuous type:

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

The commissioner of the department of health shall not maintain records of any person who checks "skip this question". Failure to check a box shall not impair the validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip this question" shall not be construed to imply a wish not to donate. In the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes" shall not constitute consent to make an anatomical gift or registration in the donate life registry. Where an applicant has previously consented to make an anatomical gift or registered in the donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or failing to check a box shall not impair that consent or registration. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that space shall be provided on the application so that the applicant may request a notation upon such license that the applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces. Additionally, the commissioner shall ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate a declaration relating to the designation of a health care proxy pursuant to section twenty-nine hundred eighty-one of the public health law and that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Have you completed a health care proxy? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'." Followed by a space for the health care agent's name.

The commissioner shall also ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate a declaration relating to the use of life-sustaining treatment and that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Have you completed a living will? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner shall make whatever provisions are feasible and desirable to maintain and issue all suitable documents regarding advanced directives at driver's license examining offices. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such applicant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials transportation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, five hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical certificate" and "medical certification" shall mean a form substantially in compliance with the form set forth in Part 391.43(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations. Upon a determination that the holder of a commercial driver's license has made any false statement, with respect to the application for such license, the commissioner shall revoke such license.

§ 4. Subdivision 1 of section 502 of the vehicle and traffic law, as added by section three of this act, is amended to read as follows:

1. Application for license. Application for a driver's license shall be made to the commissioner. The fee prescribed by law may be submitted with such application. The applicant shall furnish such proof of identity, age, and fitness as may be required by the commissioner. Eligibility for a driver's license shall not be conditioned on a particular immi-

gration status. The commissioner may also provide that the application procedure shall include the taking of a photo image or images of the applicant in accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the commissioner. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that the applicant provide the applicant's social security number where such applicant is a legal immigrant and [~~shall~~] provide space on the application so that the applicant may register in the New York state organ and tissue donor registry under section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law [~~with the following stated on the application in clear and conspicuous type:~~

~~"You must fill out the following section: Would you like to be added to the Donate Life Registry? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."~~

~~The commissioner of the department of health shall not maintain records of any person who checks "skip this question". Failure to check a box shall not impair the validity of an application, and failure to check "yes" or checking "skip this question" shall not be construed to imply a wish not to donate. In the case of an applicant under eighteen years of age, checking "yes" shall not constitute consent to make an anatomical gift or registration in the donate life registry. Where an applicant has previously consented to make an anatomical gift or registered in the donate life registry, checking "skip this question" or failing to check a box shall not impair that consent or registration~~]. In addition, the commissioner also shall require that space shall be provided on the application so that the applicant may request a notation upon such license that the applicant is a veteran of the United States armed forces. Additionally, the commissioner shall ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate a declaration relating to the designation of a health care proxy pursuant to section twenty-nine hundred eighty-one of the public health law and that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Have you completed a health care proxy? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'." Followed by a space for the health care agent's name.

The commissioner shall also ensure that space is provided on the application so that the applicant shall indicate a declaration relating to the use of life-sustaining treatment and that the following is typed in clear and conspicuous type:

"You must fill out the following section: Have you completed a living will? Check box for 'yes' or 'skip this question'."

The commissioner shall make whatever provisions are feasible and desirable to maintain and issue all suitable documents regarding advanced directives at driver's license examining offices. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license who will operate a commercial motor vehicle in interstate commerce shall certify that such applicant meets the requirements to operate a commercial motor vehicle, as set forth in public law 99-570, title XII, and title 49 of the code of federal regulations, and all regulations promulgated by the United States secretary of transportation under the hazardous materials transportation act. In addition, an applicant for a commercial driver's license shall submit a medical certificate at such intervals as required by the federal motor carrier safety improvement act of 1999 and Part 383.71(h) of title 49 of the code of federal regulations relating to medical certification and in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. For purposes of this section and sections five hundred three, five hundred ten-a, and five hundred ten-aa of this title, the terms "medical

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

§ 5. Paragraph (a) of subdivision 1 of section 504 of the vehicle and traffic law, as separately amended by chapters 568 and 639 of the laws of 2006, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Every license or renewal thereof shall contain a distinguishing mark and adequate space upon which an anatomical gift, pursuant to section forty-three hundred ten of the public health law, by the licensee shall be recorded and shall contain such other information and shall be issued in such form as the commissioner shall determine; provided, however, every license or renewal thereof issued to a person under the age of twenty-one years shall have prominently imprinted upon it the statement "UNDER 21 YEARS OF AGE" in notably distinctive print or format; provided further, however, every license or renewal thereof issued to a person making an anatomical gift shall have prominently printed upon the front of such license or renewal thereof the statement "ORGAN DONOR" in notably distinctive print or format**; provided that every license shall have imprinted on the back "Designated health care agent:" followed by a space for the health care agent's name and contact information; and provided further that every license shall have imprinted on the back "Executed declaration relating to life-sustaining treatment:" followed by a space to mark the appropriate box "Yes" or "No"**. The commissioner shall not require fees for the issuance of such licenses or renewals thereof to persons under twenty-one years of age or to persons making an anatomical gift which are different from the fees required for the issuance of licenses or renewals thereof to persons twenty-one years of age or over or to persons not making an anatomical gift.

§ 6. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however, that section three of this act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law; and provided, further, that section four of this act shall take effect October 3, 2028.