



General Assembly

January Session, 2023

Raised Bill No. 6656

LCO No. 3978



Referred to Committee on TRANSPORTATION

Introduced by:
(TRA)

AN ACT CONCERNING A MOTOR VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENSE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subdivision (3) of subsection (e) of section 14-36 of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu
3 thereof (*Effective October 1, 2023*):

4 (3) Before granting a license to any applicant who has not previously
5 held a Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license, or whose
6 Connecticut motor vehicle operator's license expired more than two
7 years prior to the application date, the commissioner shall require the
8 applicant to demonstrate personally to the commissioner, a deputy, a
9 motor vehicle inspector or an agent of the commissioner, in such manner
10 as the commissioner directs, that the applicant is a proper person to
11 operate motor vehicles of the class for which such applicant has applied,
12 has sufficient knowledge of the mechanism of the motor vehicles to
13 ensure their safe operation by him or her and has satisfactory
14 knowledge of the laws concerning motor vehicles and the rules of the
15 road. The knowledge test of an applicant for a class D motor vehicle
16 operator's license may be administered in such form as the

17 commissioner deems appropriate, including audio, electronic or written
18 testing. Such knowledge test shall be administered in English, Spanish
19 or any other language [spoken at home by at least one per cent of the
20 state's population, according to statistics prepared by the United States
21 Census Bureau, based on the most recent decennial census] as requested
22 by the applicant. Each such knowledge test shall include a question
23 concerning highway work zone safety and the responsibilities of an
24 operator of a motor vehicle under section 14-212d. Each such knowledge
25 test shall include not less than one question concerning distracted
26 driving, the use of mobile telephones and electronic devices by motor
27 vehicle operators or the responsibilities of motor vehicle operators
28 under section 14-296aa. If any such applicant has held a license from a
29 state, territory or possession of the United States where a similar
30 examination is required, the commissioner may waive part or all of the
31 examination. If any such applicant is (A) a veteran who applies not later
32 than two years after the date of discharge from the military and who,
33 prior to such discharge, held a military operator's license for motor
34 vehicles of the same class as that for which such applicant has applied,
35 or (B) a member of the armed forces or the National Guard who
36 currently holds a military operator's license for motor vehicles of the
37 same class as that for which such applicant has applied, the
38 commissioner shall waive all of the examination, except in the case of a
39 commercial motor vehicle license, the commissioner shall waive the
40 driving skills test for such applicant and may, in such commissioner's
41 discretion, waive the knowledge test for such application, provided
42 such applicant meets the conditions set forth in 49 CFR 383.77, as
43 amended from time to time. For the purposes of this subsection,
44 "veteran" and "armed forces" have the same meanings as provided in
45 section 27-103. When the commissioner is satisfied as to the ability and
46 competency of any applicant, the commissioner may issue to such
47 applicant a license, either unlimited or containing such limitations as the
48 commissioner deems advisable, and specifying the class of motor
49 vehicles which the licensee is eligible to operate.

50 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Not later than October 1, 2023,

51 the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall offer appointments for the
52 on-the-road skills test portion of the examination for a motor vehicles
53 operator's license at drivers' schools, licensed in accordance with the
54 provisions of section 14-69 of the general statutes. The on-the-road skills
55 test shall be administered by a motor vehicle inspector agent or an agent
56 of the commissioner and shall be made available to all students of such
57 schools who are otherwise eligible to take such test.

58 Sec. 3. (*Effective from passage*) On or before February 1, 2024, the
59 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall submit a report, in accordance
60 with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint
61 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
62 matters relating to transportation regarding the status of entering into
63 an agreement with Taiwan for reciprocal recognition of driver training
64 requirements.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2023</i>	14-36(e)(3)
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To require (1) the knowledge test for the motor vehicle operator's license to be offered in any language as requested by the applicant, (2) the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to offer the on-the-road skills test at drivers' school for all students who are otherwise eligible to take such test, and (3) a status report concerning an agreement with Taiwan for reciprocal recognition of driver training requirements.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]