



Legislative Bulletin 2020

June 2020

This bulletin summarizes laws enacted during the 2020 regular legislative session that impact and are of interest to DVS and partners.

DVS staff will receive procedural information from supervisors.

Deputy registrars and driver's license agents will receive procedure information in future DVS Weekly Updates and Info Hub posts.

- [Driver Services](#)
- [Vehicle Services](#)

■ Driver Services

Temporary Staff Appropriation

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 71, HF 4531, Article 1, section 1

Effective: March 29, 2020

What you need to know:

- Appropriates \$2.4 million from the vehicle services operating account in FY20 for temporary staff to assist in administration and issuance of driver's licenses and identification cards. The funds are available for work performed or expenses incurred on or before December 31, 2020. This one-time appropriation is available until January 31, 2021.
- Restricts use of temporary staff to only the extent necessary to achieve an average turnaround time of 45 days in issuing licenses and ID cards.

Proof of Minnesota Residency for REAL IDs

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 71, HF 4531, Article 2, section 9; Amends Minn. Stat. § 171.0615, subdivision 5

Effective: March 30, 2020

What you need to know:

- Modifies and generally broadens the [list of acceptable documents](#) that may be used as proof of Minnesota residency when applying for a REAL-ID compliant driver's license or identification card.

Extension of Driver's Licenses, Identification Cards, and Disability Parking Certificates

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 71, HF 4531, Article 2, section 15;

Effective: March 29, 2020

What you need to know:

- Extends the expiration date for driver's licenses, instructional permits, provisional licenses, operator permits, limited licenses, farm licenses, work licenses, and identification cards that expire during the peacetime public health emergency or anytime in the month the emergency ends. The expiration dates are extended for two months after the month the peacetime emergency ends.
- Allows a person with an out-of-state noncommercial driver's license who becomes a Minnesota resident during the peacetime emergency to use that license beyond the usual 60-day grace period. The grace period is extended for two months after the month the peacetime emergency ends.
- Extends the expiration date for disability parking certificates and temporary permits that would otherwise expire during the peacetime public health emergency period or at any point during the last month of the declared emergency. The expiration dates are extended for two months after the month the peacetime emergency ends
- Directs DPS to work with law enforcement agencies to ensure awareness about the expiration date extensions.
- Directs DPS to publicize information on the expiration date extensions to the general public.

Report to the Legislature; Powers Exercised by the Commissioner of Public Safety during the Peacetime Public Safety Emergency

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 71, HF 4531, Article 2, section 16

Effective: March 29, 2020

What you need to know:

- Within 30 days of the expiration of the peacetime public health emergency, the Commissioner of Public Safety must report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over transportation any temporary powers exercised relating to Driver and Vehicle Services and the State Patrol regarding, but not limited to any statutory requirements or administrative rules that were modified or waived.
- The report must contain a timeline as to when and an explanation why temporary powers were exercised.
- Temporary powers include the requirements under section 15 (the extension of driver's licenses, identification cards, and disability parking certificates and permits) and must be included in the report.

Broadened Extension of an Out of State Commercial Driver's Licenses for New Minnesota Residents

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 74, HF 4556, Article 1, section 4; Amends
Laws of Minnesota 2020, chapter 71, article 2, section 15, subdivision 3

Effective: April 16, 2020

What you need to know:

- A CDL holder that becomes a Minnesota resident can continue to use a license from another jurisdiction beyond the usual 30-day grace period; and
- The out-of-state CDL expiration date is extended in conformance with a federal extension. The current federal expiration date is June 30, 2020.

Extension of Commercial Driver's License Medical Certificate

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 74, HF 4556, Article 1, section 5; Amends
Laws of Minnesota 2020, chapter 71, article 2, section 15, subdivision 3

Effective: April 16, 2020

What you need to know:

A CDL medical certificate that expires during the peacetime emergency is extended through June 30, 2020 in accordance with the extension granted by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMSCA).

Waiver of Photograph, Vision Exam, and Expiration Date Extension for Commercial Driver's Licenses

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 74, HF 4556, Article 1, section 6; Amends
Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 71, Article 2, section 15 by adding a
subdivision

Effective April 16, 2020

What you need to know:

- DVS may issue new CDLs when there is testing in place that ensures personal protective measures for applicants and examiners, and complies with COVID-19 guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH).
- During the peacetime emergency:
 - the photo requirement for CDLs is waived and allows for use of a prior photograph on file with the department;
 - the vision examination for CDLs is waived; and
 - the expiration date of the licenses is the last day of the second consecutive month following the month in which the peacetime public health emergency period terminates.
- When the peacetime emergency ends, the expiration date of the CDL is adjusted to the date that would otherwise apply, if the license holder:
 - arranges for an in-person photograph; and
 - passes a vision exam.

Autism and Mental Health Identified

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 100, HF 462, sections 14 and 15; Amends
Minn. Stat. § 171.07, subdivision 6a and adds a subdivision

Effective: August 1, 2020

What you need to know:

- A person may request an autism spectrum or mental health identified on a driver's license or identification card. Prior law placed both identifier types with the same image.

Waiver of Photograph and Vision Exam for Standard Credentials

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 100, HF 462, section 27

Effective: June 2, 2020

What you need to know:

- DVS may issue a noncompliant (standard) driver's license or identification card without requiring a new photograph or eye exam if the applicants name, address, signature, or card number do not change
- This applies only to applications made on or before June 30, 2021.

Tobacco Purchase Age 21

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 88, HF 331, section 3

Effective: August 1, 2020

What you need to know:

- DVS must suspend the driver's license of an individual that lends a driver's license or other identification card to a person under 21 for the purchase of tobacco, a tobacco related device, electronic delivery device, or a nicotine or lobelia delivery product.

■ Vehicle Services

Passenger Class Registration Tax Calculation

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 74, HF 4556, Article 2, section 1

Effective: January 1, 2021 or upon implementation of the necessary changes to the information technology system.

What you need to know:

- Modifies and clarifies calculation of the motor vehicle registration tax for passenger class vehicles.
- Increases the tax rate used for vehicles being newly registered in Minnesota, from 1.25 to 1.28 percent;
- Leaves the tax rate for vehicles initially registered in Minnesota at 1.25 percent;
- Registration tax is based on the manufacturer's suggested retail prices (MSRP) without other costs or price adjustments, such as destination charge;
- Bases the registration tax calculation only on the MSRP;
- Gets rid of all use of "Base value";
- Clarifies how MSRP can be determined; and

- Makes other clarifying and technical changes.

Passenger Class Registration Tax Adjustments

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 74, HF 4556, Article 2, section 2

Effective: January 1, 2021 or upon implementation of the necessary changes to the information technology system.

What you need to know:

- Provides for the circumstances where the department must adjust the registration tax amount for a motor vehicle; and
- DVS must not collect any amount that would have been paid but for the errors or omissions.

Temporary Vehicle Permits

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 100, HF 462, sections 4,5, and 6; Amends Minn. Stat. §§ 168.09, subdivision 7; 168.091; and 168.092

Effective: January 1, 2021 or upon initial deployment of the implementation of the VTRS whichever is earlier. The Commissioner of Public Safety must inform the revisor of the effective date.

What you need to know:

- A temporary permit (includes 21- and 31-day permits) must be displayed where a license plate is normally displayed instead of the rear window.
- For 31-day permits, eliminates the requirement that dealers forward forms to DVS that include the following information: name of purchaser, vehicle description, date of issue and expiration.
- For 21-day permits, eliminates a dealer recordkeeping requirement that one copy of the permit be retained in sequential order in the dealer's files.

Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee

Reference: Laws of Minnesota 2020, Chapter 100, HF 462, section 22
Amends Minn. Laws 2019, First Special Session chapter 3, article 2, section 34, subdivision 2,

Effective: May 28, 2020

What you need to know:

- If the Blue Ribbon Council on Information Technology is dissolved, the chair of the council continues to serve on the Driver and Vehicle Systems Oversight Committee.