

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 19-165—sHB 7201

Transportation Committee

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVENIENCE OF ACQUIRING
MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSES AND REGISTRATIONS**

SUMMARY: This act makes several changes related to acquiring and renewing driver's licenses, identity (ID) cards, and vehicle registrations. Principally, it:

1. authorizes the Department of Motor Vehicles commissioner to renew (a) driver's licenses and ID cards for any period, up to eight years, and (b) most vehicle registrations for two or three years;
2. increases the initial term of driver's licenses and ID cards from six years to seven years; and
3. eliminates the authority of the commissioner to issue driver's licenses and ID cards without the personal appearance of the holder.

The act sets fees for the extended initial term and renewal periods that are generally proportionate to their respective fees under prior law. It also makes several conforming changes to account for the modifications to the commissioner's authority and the extended renewal period options.

Lastly, the act eliminates obsolete provisions and makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2020

DRIVER'S LICENSES AND IDENTITY CARDS

Under prior law, the initial terms of driver's licenses and ID cards were six years and they, generally, had to be renewed every six years. Under the act, their initial terms are raised to seven years and they may be renewed for a period determined by the commissioner, up to eight years. As under existing law, people age 65 or older may, alternatively, renew their licenses for only two years.

Additionally, the act modifies the expiration date of an original ID card to base it on the applicant's birthdate, as is already the case under existing law with driver's licenses, rather than on the date an ID card was issued.

The act sets the fee for an initial seven-year license at \$84 and for an eight-year license renewal at \$96, which are proportionate to the prior \$72 fee for an initial or renewed six-year license (i.e., \$12 per year). The fee for a two-year license renewal by people age 65 or older remains \$24. The act raises the fee for an original ID card from \$22.50 to \$28 and establishes a proportionate \$32 fee for an eight-year renewal. The act requires the commissioner to charge a prorated amount for driver's licenses and ID cards that are renewed for periods less than eight years.

Also, the act requires payment of the fee for an original ID card to be made at the time of application, rather than upon the issuance of the card.

OLR PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY

VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

Under prior law, vehicle registrations had to be renewed every two years, unless another time period was specified by law. Under the act, the commissioner may, generally, renew most vehicle registrations for either two or three years. As under existing law, people age 65 or older may, alternatively, renew their passenger motor vehicle registrations for only one year.

The act sets fees for three-year renewals that are proportionate to fees for their respective two-year renewals, as shown in the table below. By law, unchanged by the act, the fee for a one-year passenger motor vehicle renewal by people age 65 or older is \$40. Under the act and existing law, the commissioner may establish schedules that stagger these renewals and prorate the fees.

Two- and Three-Year Vehicle Registration Fees

Vehicle Type	Two-Year Registration Fee (unchanged by the act)	Three-Year Registration Fee (under the act)
Passenger Motor Vehicle	\$ 80.00	\$ 120.00
Antique, Rare, or Special Interest Motor Vehicle	80.00	120.00
Motorcycle	42.00	63.00
Commercial Motorcycle with Attached Side Car or Box	60.00	90.00
Commercial Passenger Motor Vehicle	88.00	132.00
Electric Motor Vehicle	38.00	57.00
Camping or Recreational Trailer	19.00	28.50
Farming Motor Vehicle	30.00	45.00
Camper	75.00	112.50
Snowmobile or All-Terrain Vehicle	20.00	30.00

Among the act’s conforming changes, it adjusts other registration-related fees to account for the extended renewal period options. This includes setting the Clean Air Act and Passport to the Parks fees for a three-year registration at \$15 each, which is proportionate to the prior \$10 fees for two-year registrations.

The act also modifies the refund structure for the early cancelation of vehicle registrations to account for three-year registrations. Under existing law, unchanged by the act, the commissioner must refund one-half of the registration fee for any motor vehicle if the registrant cancels his or her registration with one year or more remaining on his or her two-year registration. Under the act, for three-year registrations, the commissioner must (1) refund two-thirds of the vehicle’s registration fee if its registration is canceled with two years or more remaining before its expiration, and (2) refund one-third of the fee if its registration is canceled with at least one year, but not more than two years, remaining before its expiration.