

1 House BILL NO. 466
2 INTRODUCED BY W. Baith

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AMEND SECTION
5 31-135, R.C.M. 1947, REQUIRING A WRITTEN EXAMINATION ON THE
6 RENEWAL OF OPERATOR'S OR CHAUFFEUR'S LICENSE OR MOTORCYCLE
7 ENDORSEMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR A DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATE."

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9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

10 Section 1. Section 31-135, R.C.M. 1947, is amended to
11 read as follows:

12 "31-135. Licenses issued to operators and
13 chauffeurs--renewals and expiration thereof. (a) The highway
14 patrol board shall have authority to appoint county
15 treasurers and other qualified officers to act as its agent
16 or agents for the sale of drivers' licenses, and shall make
17 necessary rules and regulations governing such sales. The
18 board, upon payment of the fees specified in this act, (of
19 which sum five per cent (5%) shall be retained by the county
20 treasurers for use of the county general fund) shall issue
21 to every applicant qualifying therefor, an operator's or
22 chauffeur's license as applied for, and such licenses shall
23 contain a photograph of such licensee in such size and form
24 as may be prescribed by the highway patrol board, a
25 distinguishing number issued to the licensee, the full name,

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1 date of birth, resident address, and a brief description of
2 the licensee and either a facsimile of the signature of the
3 licensee or a space upon which he shall write his signature
4 in pen and ink, immediately upon receipt of the license. No
5 license shall be valid until it has been so signed by the
6 licensee.

7 (b) The board shall, when any person applies for
8 renewal of an operator's or chauffeur's license or
9 motorcycle endorsement, test the applicant's eyesight,
10 knowledge of traffic laws of this state, ability to read and
11 understand highway signs, regulating, warning and directing
12 traffic and general knowledge of safe driving practices, and
13 may also, in the board's discretion, have such applicant
14 demonstrate his physical ability to operate and to exercise
15 ordinary and reasonable care in the operation of a motor
16 vehicle. A person shall be deemed to have applied for
17 renewal of a Montana operator's or chauffeur's license if
18 such application is made within three (3) months of the
19 expiration of such license.

20 (c) Licenses issued shall expire on the anniversary of
21 the date of birth of the licensee four (4) years or less
22 after the date of issue. Notwithstanding the foregoing
23 provisions, the highway patrol board shall stagger initial
24 license terms for the purpose of equalizing annual issuance
25 of licenses and shall collect license fees proportionate to

1 the term of such licenses.

2 (d) Whenever the board issues an original license to a
3 person under the age of eighteen (18) years, such license
4 shall be designated and clearly marked as a "provisional
5 license." Any license so designated and marked may be
6 suspended by the board for a period of not more than twelve
7 (12) months, when its record discloses that the licensee,
8 subsequent to the issuance of such license, has been guilty
9 of careless or negligent driving. Upon renewal as applicable
10 to operator's licenses, the board may for any reasonable
11 cause, as shown by its records, designate the renewal of the
12 license as provisional, otherwise, a license in usual form
13 shall be issued subject to other provisions of the laws of
14 Montana.

15 (e) It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his
16 possession or under his control, more than one (1) Montana
17 operator's or chauffeur's license at any one time.

18 (f) Driver license fees. Fees for driver license shall
19 be as follows:

20 1. Driver's license--two dollars (\$2) per year or
21 fraction thereof."

22 Section 2. This act is effective January 1, 1976.

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