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H.657

Introduced by Representatives Sharpe of Bristol, Ancel of Calais, Botzow of
Pownal, Marcotte of Coventry, and Young of Glover

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; operator's licenses; examinations

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to authorize the
Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to waive on a reciprocal basis the
requirement to take a driver's license examination in order for an applicant to
obtain an initial Vermont license if the applicant holds a valid license issued by
a foreign country and if certain other conditions are satisfied.

An act relating to waiver of driver's license examinations

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 632 is amended to read:

§ 632. EXAMINATION REQUIRED; ~~WAIVER~~ WAIVERS

(a) Before an operator's or a junior operator's license is issued to an
applicant for the first time in this State, or before a renewal license is issued to
an applicant whose previous Vermont license had expired more than three
years prior to the application for renewal, the applicant shall pass a satisfactory

1 examination, except that the Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, waive
2 the examination when:

3 (1) the applicant holds a chauffeur's or operator's license in force at the
4 time of application, or within one year of the application, in some other state
5 where an examination is required similar to the examination required in this
6 State; or

7 (2) the applicant holds a valid license issued by a foreign country in
8 which the operator previously resided, and all of the following conditions are
9 satisfied:

10 (A) the Commissioner determines that the foreign country's
11 standards for licensing operators are substantially similar to those of Vermont;

12 (B) Vermont and the foreign country have exchanged letters or other
13 documentation to confirm reciprocal waiver of license examinations by
14 Vermont for qualified applicants from the foreign country and by the foreign
15 country for qualified applicants from Vermont; and

16 (C) the applicant complies with the mandatory financial
17 responsibility provisions of chapter 11 of this title.

18 (b) The examination shall consist of:

19 (1) an oral or written examination;

20 (2) a thorough road test; and

1 (3) at the discretion of the Commissioner, such other examination or
2 demonstration as he or she may prescribe.

3 (c) A person eligible for waiver of an examination pursuant to subdivision
4 (a)(2) of this section shall only be eligible in connection with an application for
5 a junior operator's license or an operator's license, and not in connection with
6 an application for a commercial driver license under chapter 49 of this title or
7 for a privilege card under subsection 603(e) of this title. An applicant for
8 whom a waiver of examination is granted under subdivision (a)(2) of this
9 section shall surrender his or her existing foreign country license prior to
10 issuance of a Vermont license.

11 (d) The Department shall maintain on its public website a current list of
12 foreign countries with which Vermont has entered into or withdrawn from
13 agreements granting reciprocal waivers of license examinations.

14 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

15 This act shall take effect on passage.