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H.472

Introduced by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro and Pajala of
Londonderry

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Motor vehicles; operators' licenses; reciprocity

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to increase the
amount of time that an individual may use a license from another country to
operate a motor vehicle in this State.

An act relating to operator license reciprocity

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

Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 208 is amended to read:

§ 208. RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF NONRESIDENT
REGISTRATIONS, LICENSES, AND PERMITS; FOREIGN
VISITORS

As determined by the Commissioner, and consistent with section 601 of this
title, a motor vehicle owned by a nonresident shall be considered as registered
and a nonresident operator shall be considered as licensed or permitted in this
State if the nonresident owner or operator has complied with the laws of the
foreign country or state of his or her residence relative to the registration of

1 motor vehicles and the granting of operators' licenses or learner's permits.
2 However, these exemptions shall be operative only to the extent that under the
3 laws of the foreign country or state of the owner's or operator's residence like
4 exemptions and privileges are granted to owners of motor vehicles duly
5 registered and to operators duly licensed or permitted under the laws of this
6 State, except that if the owner or operator is a resident of a country not
7 adjoining the United States, the exemptions shall be operative for a period of
8 not more than ~~30 days for vacation purposes~~ one year even if the country does
9 not grant like privileges to residents of this State.

10 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 601(a) is amended to read:

11 (a)(1) Except as otherwise provided by law, a resident shall not operate a
12 motor vehicle on a highway in Vermont unless he or she holds a valid license
13 issued by the State of Vermont. A new resident who has moved into the State
14 from another jurisdiction and who holds a valid license to operate motor
15 vehicles under section 208 of this title shall procure a Vermont license within
16 60 days of moving to the State. Except as provided in subsection 603(d) of
17 this title, licenses shall not be issued to nonresidents.

18 (2) In addition to any other requirement of law, a nonresident as defined
19 in section 4 of this title shall not operate a motor vehicle on a Vermont
20 highway unless:

1 (A) he or she holds a valid license or permit to operate a motor
2 vehicle issued by another U.S. jurisdiction;

3 (B) he or she holds a valid license or permit to operate a motor
4 vehicle from a jurisdiction outside the United States and operates for a period
5 of not more than ~~30 days for vacation purposes~~ one year; or

6 (C) he or she holds a valid license or permit to operate a motor
7 vehicle from a jurisdiction outside the United States and:

8 (i) is at least 18 ~~or more~~ years of age, is lawfully present in the
9 United States, and has been in the United States for less than ~~one year~~ two
10 years;

11 (ii) the jurisdiction that issued the license is a party to the 1949
12 Convention on Road Traffic, ~~or~~ the 1943 Convention on the Regulation of
13 Inter-American Motor Vehicle Traffic, or the 1968 Convention on Road
14 Traffic; and

15 (iii) he or she possesses an international driving permit.

16 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 632(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) Before an operator's or a junior operator's license is issued to an
18 applicant for the first time in this State, or before a renewal license is issued to
19 an applicant whose previous Vermont license had expired more than three
20 years prior to the application for renewal, the applicant shall pass a satisfactory
21 examination, except that the Commissioner may, in his or her discretion, waive

1 the examination when the applicant holds a chauffeur's or operator's license in
2 force at the time of application or within one year ~~of~~ prior to the application in
3 some other ~~state~~ jurisdiction where an examination is required similar to the
4 examination required in this State.

5 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

6 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.