

1 H.284

2 Introduced by Representatives Burke of Brattleboro and Pouech of Hinesburg

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; operator's licenses; renewal; endorsements; older

6 drivers; motor homes

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require  
8 residents 70 years of age or older to appear in person and pass a vision test to  
9 renew an operator's license and to require an endorsement to operate a motor  
10 home weighing at least 10,000 pounds and not more than 26,000 pounds and a  
11 commercial driver's license to operate a motor home weighing at least 26,001  
12 pounds.

13 An act relating to requirements for older drivers to renew operator's  
14 licenses and for the operation of motor homes

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

16 \* \* \* Vision Test Requirements \* \* \*

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

18 § 632. EXAMINATION REQUIRED; WAIVER

19 (a) Before an operator's or a junior operator's license is issued to an  
20 applicant for the first time in this State, or before a renewal license is issued to

1 an applicant whose previous Vermont license had expired more than three  
2 years prior to the application for renewal, the applicant shall pass a satisfactory  
3 examination, except that the Commissioner may, in ~~his or her~~ the  
4 Commissioner's discretion, waive the examination when the applicant holds a  
5 chauffeur's or operator's license in force at the time of application or within  
6 three years prior to the application in some other jurisdiction where an  
7 examination is required similar to the examination required in this State.

8 (b) The examination shall consist of:

9 (1) an oral or written examination;

10 (2) a thorough road test; and

11 (3) at the discretion of the Commissioner, such other examination or  
12 demonstration as ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner may prescribe, including an oral  
13 eye examination.

14 (c) An applicant may have an individual of ~~his or her~~ the applicant's  
15 choosing at the oral examination or road test to serve as an interpreter,  
16 including to translate any oral commands given as part of the road test.

17 (d) Before a renewal license is issued to an applicant 70 years of age or  
18 older, the applicant must appear in person at a Department location and pass a  
19 vision test.

20 \* \* \* Requirements to Operate a Motor Home \* \* \*

1 Sec. 2. 23 V.S.A. § 4 is amended to read:

2 § 4. DEFINITIONS

3 Except as may otherwise be provided by law, and unless the context  
4 otherwise requires in statutes relating to motor vehicles and enforcement of the  
5 law regulating vehicles, as provided in this title and 20 V.S.A. part 5, the  
6 following definitions shall apply:

7 \* \* \*

8 (89) “Motor home” has the same meaning as in 32 V.S.A. § 8902(11).

9 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

10 § 601. LICENSE REQUIRED

11 \* \* \*

12 (d)(1)(A) The Commissioner may, in ~~his or her~~ the Commissioner’s  
13 discretion, determine that certain types of motor vehicles require that an  
14 operator possess specialized skill or knowledge to operate those vehicles so  
15 that the public safety may not be endangered. If the Commissioner so  
16 determines, ~~he or she~~ the Commissioner may prescribe different classes of  
17 licenses or endorsements for the operation of particular types of vehicles.

18 (B) The Commissioner is authorized to make rules prescribing forms  
19 and procedures for applications, license classifications, restrictions,  
20 endorsements, examinations, driver training requirements, and

1 disqualifications consistent with this title as necessary to carry out the  
2 provisions of this section.

3 (2) Except as otherwise provided pursuant to this title, a person shall not  
4 operate a motor home weighing at least 10,000 pounds and not more than  
5 26,000 pounds unless the person holds a valid motor home endorsement issued  
6 by the State.

7 \* \* \*

8 Sec. 4. 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

9 § 608. FEES

10 \* \* \*

11 (b) An additional fee of \$4.00 per year shall be paid for a motorcycle or  
12 motor home endorsement. The endorsement may be obtained for either a two-  
13 year or four-year period, to be coincidental with the length of the operator's  
14 license.

15 Sec. 5. 23 V.S.A. § 615 is amended to read:

16 § 615. UNLICENSED OPERATORS

17 (a)(1)(A) An unlicensed person 15 years of age or older may operate a  
18 motor vehicle if ~~he or she~~ the unlicensed person possesses a valid learner's  
19 permit issued to ~~him or her~~ the unlicensed person by the Commissioner, or by  
20 another jurisdiction in accordance with section 208 of this title, and if one of

1 the following persons who is not under the influence of alcohol or drugs rides  
2 beside ~~him or her~~ the unlicensed person:

3 \* \* \*

4 (3) A licensed person who does not possess a valid motor home  
5 endorsement may operate a motor home weighing at least 10,000 pounds and  
6 not more than 26,000 pounds, with no passengers, only during daylight hours  
7 and then only if the person has in their possession a valid motor home learner's  
8 permit issued to the person by the Commissioner.

9 \* \* \*

10 Sec. 6. 23 V.S.A. § 617 is amended to read:

11 § 617. LEARNER'S PERMIT

12 \* \* \*

13 (c)(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, any  
14 licensed person may apply to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles for a  
15 learner's permit for the operation of a motor home weighing at least 10,000  
16 pounds and not more than 26,000 pounds in the form prescribed by the  
17 Commissioner. The Commissioner shall require payment of a fee of \$24.00 at  
18 the time application is made.

19 (2) After the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the applicable  
20 motor home endorsement examination, other than a skill test, the  
21 Commissioner may issue to the applicant a learner's permit that entitles the

1 applicant, subject to subsection 615(a) of this title, to operate a motor home  
2 upon the public highways for a period of 120 days from the date of issuance.  
3 The fee for the examination shall be \$11.00.

4 (3) A motor home learner's permit may be renewed only twice upon  
5 payment of a \$24.00 fee. If, during the original permit period and two  
6 renewals the permittee has not successfully passed the applicable skill test or  
7 motor home operation training course, the permittee shall not obtain another  
8 motor home learner's permit for a period of 12 months from the expiration of  
9 the permit unless the permittee has successfully completed the applicable  
10 motor home training course.

11 (4) This section shall not affect section 602 of this title.

12 (d) No learner's permit may be issued to any person under 18 years of age  
13 unless the parent or guardian of, or a person standing in loco parentis to, the  
14 applicant files ~~his or her~~ the person's written consent to the issuance with the  
15 Commissioner.

16 ~~(d)~~(e) An applicant shall pay \$24.00 to the Commissioner for each learner's  
17 permit or a duplicate or renewal thereof.

18 ~~(e)~~(f)(1) A learner's permit, which is not a learner's permit for the  
19 operation of a motorcycle or a motor home, shall contain a photograph or  
20 imaged likeness of the individual if the permit is obtained in person. The

1 photographic learner's permit shall be available at locations designated by the  
2 Commissioner.

3 \* \* \*

4 ~~(f)~~(g)(1) The Commissioner may authorize motorcycle rider training  
5 instructors to administer a motorcycle endorsement examination for three-  
6 wheeled motorcycles only or for any motorcycle, or a motorcycle skill test for  
7 three-wheeled motorcycles only or for any motorcycle, or any of these. Upon  
8 successful completion of the applicable examination or test, the instructor shall  
9 issue to the applicant either a temporary motorcycle learner's permit or notice  
10 of motorcycle endorsement, as appropriate. The instructor shall immediately  
11 forward to the Commissioner the application and fee together with ~~such~~ any  
12 additional information ~~as required by the Commissioner~~ may require.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. 7. 23 V.S.A. chapter 9, subchapter 7 is added to read:

15 Subchapter 7. Motor Home Operator Training Program

16 § 741. DEFINITIONS

17 As used in this subchapter:

18 (1) "Chief instructor" means a licensed motor home operator who meets  
19 the standards established by the Department to qualify to train and oversee  
20 instructors for the motor home operator education program.

21 (2) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

1           (3) “Department” means the Department of Motor Vehicles.

2           (4) “Motor home” means a motor home as defined in section 4 of this  
3 title that weighs at least 10,000 pounds and not more than 26,000 pounds.

4           (5) “Operator training course” means a motor home operator education  
5 curriculum and delivery system approved by the Department as meeting  
6 standards designed to develop and instill the knowledge, attitudes, habits, and  
7 skills necessary for the safe operation of a motor home.

8           (6) “Program coordinator” means the person designated by the  
9 Commissioner to plan, organize, and administer the Motor Home Operator  
10 Training Program as provided in subsection 742(b) of this subchapter.

11           (7) “Training specialist” means the person designated by the  
12 Commissioner to fulfill the obligations stated in subsection 742(c) of this title.

13           § 742. MOTOR HOME OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM

14           (a) The Department shall establish standards for and shall administer the  
15 Motor Home Operator Training Program. The Program shall include operator  
16 training courses and instructor training. The Department may expand the  
17 Program to include public awareness, alcohol and drug effects, motor home  
18 operator improvement, licensing improvement, Program promotion, or other  
19 motor home safety programs.



1       (b) The Commissioner shall appoint a Program coordinator who shall  
2       oversee and direct the Program by setting Program and funding guidelines, and  
3       conduct an annual evaluation.

4       (c) The Commissioner shall also appoint one or more training specialists  
5       who shall assist in establishing motor home operator training courses  
6       throughout the State, support and implement Program and funding guidelines,  
7       and supervise instructors and other personnel as necessary. The training  
8       specialist may be a trained chief instructor.

9       (d) An adequate number of motor home operator training courses shall be  
10       provided to meet the reasonably anticipated needs of all persons in the State  
11       who desire to participate in the Program. The Department shall issue  
12       certificates of completion in the manner and form prescribed by the  
13       Commissioner to persons who satisfactorily complete the requirements of the  
14       course.

15       (e) The Department may enter into contracts with either public or private  
16       institutions or organizations for technical assistance in conducting motor home  
17       operator training courses, if the course is administered and taught according to  
18       standards for the Program established by the Department pursuant to this  
19       section. If necessary, an organization conducting a motor home operator  
20       training course shall charge a reasonable tuition fee that shall be determined by  
21       and paid to the Commissioner.

1       (f) The Commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to carry out the  
2       provisions of this subchapter and to implement the Motor Home Operator  
3       Training Program.

4       (g) In establishing standards for the Motor Home Operator Training  
5       Program, the Department shall be guided by any existing national standards for  
6       such programs.

7       (h) Any person, agency, institution, or organization offering motor home  
8       safety instruction under the auspices of this subchapter, with respect to such  
9       instruction activities, are exempt from the requirements of subchapter 4 of this  
10       chapter relating to driver training school licenses.

11       § 743. INSTRUCTOR REQUIREMENTS AND TRAINING

12       (a) The Department shall establish standards for an approved motor home  
13       operator training instructor preparation course. Successful completion of the  
14       course shall require the participant to demonstrate knowledge of the course  
15       material, knowledge of safe motor home operating practices, motor home  
16       driving proficiency, and the necessary aptitude for instructing students.

17       (b) The Commissioner shall establish minimum requirements for the  
18       qualifications of a motor home operator training instructor. The minimum  
19       requirements shall include the following:

20               (1) The instructor shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent.

1           (2) The instructor shall be at least 21 years of age and must hold a valid  
2           operator's license with a motor home endorsement or a valid commercial  
3           driver's license.

4           (3) The instructor's license shall not have been suspended or revoked at  
5           any time during the preceding two years.

6           (4) The instructor shall not have any convictions for driving under the  
7           influence of alcohol or drugs during the preceding five years.

8           (5) If the instructor is licensed in another state, the instructor shall  
9           furnish certified copies of the instructor's driving records to the Department for  
10           the preceding five years, or the maximum number of years less than five for  
11           which the applicable state retains driving records.

12           (c) Temporary, seasonal employees of the Department of Motor Vehicles  
13           hired to provide motor home safety instruction, as well as any assistant  
14           instructors or range aides hired on a temporary, seasonal basis to provide or  
15           assist in the provision of motor home safety instruction, shall be exempt from  
16           the classified service established pursuant to 3 V.S.A. chapter 13.

17           § 744. IMPLEMENTATION

18           (a) Beginning on July 1, 2026, all applicants for a motor home learner's  
19           permit or a motor home endorsement shall successfully complete the motor  
20           home training course established under this subchapter before taking the skills

1 test required to obtain a motor home endorsement, unless the applicant is  
2 exempt pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

3 (b) The following applicants for a motor home learner’s permit or a motor  
4 home endorsement shall be exempt from the requirements of subsection (a) of  
5 this section:

6 (1) a renewal applicant;

7 (2) an applicant who surrenders a valid commercial driver’s license  
8 from this State or any other state; and

9 (3) an applicant who, as determined by the Commissioner, has  
10 successfully completed an equivalent training course in another state or  
11 province.

12 Sec. 8. 23 V.S.A. § 4103 is amended to read:

13 § 4103. DEFINITIONS

14 As used in this chapter:

15 \* \* \*

16 (4)(A) “Commercial motor vehicle” means a motor vehicle designed or  
17 used to transport passengers or property that:

18 (i) has either a gross vehicle weight rating or gross vehicle weight  
19 of at least 26,001 ~~or more~~ pounds or ~~such~~ a lesser rating as determined by  
20 federal regulation;

1 (ii) is designed to transport more than 15 passengers, including the  
2 driver; ~~or~~

3 (iii) is transporting hazardous materials and is required to be  
4 placarded in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Part 172, subpart F; or

5 (iv) is a motor home as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 8902(11) that  
6 weighs at least 26,001 pounds; a vehicle towing a trailer coach with a  
7 combined gross vehicle weight rating of at least 26,001 pounds, or a vehicle  
8 towing a trailer coach with a combined gross vehicle weight rating of less than  
9 26,001 pounds where the gross vehicle weight rating of the trailer coach is  
10 more than 10,000 pounds.

11 (B) “Commercial motor vehicle” shall not include:

12 \* \* \*

13 ~~(ii) motor homes as defined in 32 V.S.A. § 8902(11) and trailer~~  
14 ~~coaches as defined in subdivision 4(41) of this title; however, this exemption~~  
15 ~~shall only apply to vehicles used strictly for recreational, noncommercial~~  
16 ~~purposes; [Repealed.]~~

17 \* \* \*

18 Sec. 9. 23 V.S.A. § 4111 is amended to read:

19 § 4111. COMMERCIAL DRIVER’S LICENSE

20 \* \* \*

1 (b) Classifications, endorsements, and restrictions. Driver's licenses may  
2 be issued with the following classifications, endorsements, and restrictions:

3 (1) Licensees may drive all vehicles in the class for which the license is  
4 issued and all lesser classes of vehicles, except those requiring special  
5 endorsements.

6 \* \* \*

7 (E) Class R—Any motor home with a gross vehicle weight rating of  
8 26,001 pounds or more or any vehicle towing a trailer coach with a combined  
9 gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more.

10 (F) Class TR—Any vehicle towing a trailer coach with a combined  
11 gross vehicle weight rating of 26,000 pounds or less where the gross vehicle  
12 weight rating of the trailer coach is more than 10,000 pounds.

13 \* \* \*

14 Sec. 10. IMPLEMENTATION; ADOPTION OF RULES; OUTREACH

15 (a)(1) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, not later than July 1,  
16 2026, implement and make available the Motor Home Operator Training  
17 Program established pursuant to Sec. 7 of this act.

18 (2) The Commissioner shall ensure that the Program can be operated  
19 effectively and that there are adequate training vehicles, instructors, curriculum  
20 materials, and training sites to provide the training throughout the State to all  
21 those individuals who desire or would be required to complete the course.

1       (b) The Commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to implement the  
2       provisions of Secs. 2 through 9 of this act. The rules adopted pursuant to this  
3       subsection shall take effect not later than July 1, 2026.

4       (c) The Commissioner shall, not later than April 1, 2026, make available  
5       outreach and education materials to inform drivers of the requirements of Secs.  
6       2 through 9 of this act.

7                               \* \* \* Effective Dates \* \* \*

8       Sec. 11. EFFECTIVE DATES

9       (a) This section and Secs. 1 and 10 shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

10      (b) Secs. 2 through 9 shall take effect on July 1, 2026.