

1 H.351

2 Introduced by Representative Headrick of Burlington

3 Referred to Committee on

4 Date:

5 Subject: Motor vehicles; operator's licenses; operator's privilege cards;  
6 nondriver identification cards

7 Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to make  
8 operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards valid for  
9 eight years; to provide individuals with low income reduced fees for operator's  
10 licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identification cards; to require the  
11 Department of Motor Vehicles to develop a plan to ensure that identification  
12 cards contain an individual's full, legal name and are available to unhoused  
13 individuals and individuals without a permanent residence; and to require the  
14 Department of Motor Vehicles to conduct outreach to make Vermonters aware  
15 of certain information related to obtaining an operator's license, privilege card,  
16 or nondriver identification card.

17 An act relating to operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver  
18 identification cards

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

20 Sec. 1. 23 V.S.A. § 601 is amended to read:

1 § 601. LICENSE REQUIRED

2 \* \* \*

3 (b)(1)(A) All operator's licenses issued under this chapter shall expire,  
4 unless earlier cancelled, at midnight ~~on the eve of the second or fourth~~  
5 ~~anniversary of the date of birth of the license holder following~~ eight years after  
6 the date of issue. Renewed licenses shall expire at midnight ~~on the eve of the~~  
7 ~~second or fourth anniversary of the date of birth of the license holder following~~  
8 ~~the date the renewed license expired~~ eight years after the date the renewed  
9 license is issued.

10 (B) On or before July 1, 2029, an individual holding an operator's  
11 licenses that is valid until the individual's second or fourth date of birth  
12 following the date of issue may exchange that license for an operator's license  
13 that will expire at midnight eight years after the date on which the original  
14 license was issued. The fee for an operator's license obtained pursuant to an  
15 exchange under the provisions of this subdivision (1) shall be \$85.00 if a two-  
16 year operator's license was exchanged and \$62.00 if a four-year operator's  
17 license was exchanged.

18 (2) All junior operator's licenses shall expire, unless earlier cancelled, at  
19 midnight on the eve of the second anniversary of the date of birth of the license  
20 holder following the date of issue.





1           (2) The Commissioner shall require applicants under this subsection to  
2           furnish a document or a combination of documents that reliably proves the  
3           applicant's name, date of birth, and place of birth. The Commissioner may  
4           prescribe the documents or combination of documents that meets these criteria.  
5           However, the Commissioner shall accept a combination of two or more of the  
6           following documents to establish the name, date of birth, and place of birth of  
7           an applicant:

8                   (A) a valid foreign passport, with or without a U.S. Customs and  
9           Border Protection entry form or stamp;

10                   (B) a valid consular identification document issued by the  
11           government of Mexico or of Guatemala or by any other government with  
12           comparable security standards and protocols, as determined by the  
13           Commissioner; and

14                   (C) a certified record of the applicant's birth, marriage, adoption, or  
15           divorce, including a translation if necessary.

16           (3) The Commissioner shall require applicants under this subsection to  
17           furnish a document or a combination of documents that reliably proves the  
18           applicant's Vermont residence. The Commissioner may prescribe the  
19           documents or combination of documents that meets these criteria. However,  
20           the Commissioner shall accept the following combinations of documents as  
21           proof of Vermont residence:

1           (A)(i) two pieces of mail received by the applicant within the prior  
2           30 days with the applicant's current name and residential Vermont address;  
3           and

4           (ii) at least one of the documents specified in subdivision (B) of  
5           this subdivision (3); or

6           (B) two of the following that show name and residential Vermont  
7           address:

8           (i) a vehicle title or registration;

9           (ii) a document issued by a financial institution, such as a bank  
10          statement;

11          (iii) a document issued by an insurance company or agent, such as  
12          an insurance card, binder, or bill;

13          (iv) a document issued by an educational institution, such as a  
14          transcript, report card, or enrollment confirmation;

15          (v) federal tax documents, such as W-2 or 1099 forms;

16          (vi) State tax documents, such as an IN-111; and

17          (vii) medical health records, receipts, or bills.

18          (f) Persons able to establish lawful presence in the United States but who  
19          otherwise fail to comply with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005,  
20          Pub. L. No. 109-13, §§ 201–202, shall be eligible for an operator's privilege  
21          card, a junior operator's privilege card, or a learner's privilege card, provided

1 the applicant furnishes reliable proof of Vermont residence and of name, date  
2 of birth, and place of birth, and satisfies all other requirements of this chapter  
3 for obtaining a license or permit. The Commissioner shall require applicants  
4 under this subsection to furnish a document or a combination of documents  
5 that reliably proves the applicant's Vermont residence and ~~his or her~~ the  
6 applicant's name, date of birth, and place of birth.

7 \* \* \*

8 (h) A privilege card issued under this section shall:

9 (1) on its face bear the phrase "privilege card" and text indicating that it  
10 is not valid for federal identification or official purposes; and

11 (2) expire at midnight ~~on the eve of the second birthday of the applicant~~  
12 ~~following eight years after~~ the date of issuance ~~or, at the option of an applicant~~  
13 ~~for an operator's privilege card and upon payment of the required four year~~  
14 ~~fee, at midnight on the eve of the fourth birthday of the applicant following the~~  
15 ~~date of issuance.~~

16 \* \* \*

17 (j) On or before July 1, 2029, an individual holding a privilege card under  
18 this section that is valid until the individual's second or fourth date of birth  
19 following the date of issue may exchange that license for a privilege card that  
20 will expire at midnight eight years after the date on which the privilege card  
21 was issued. The fee for a privilege card obtained pursuant to an exchange

1 under the provisions of this subsection shall be \$85.00 if a two-year privilege  
2 card was exchanged and \$62.00 if a four-year privilege card was exchanged.

3 Sec. 3. 23 V.S.A. § 608 is amended to read:

4 § 608. FEES

5 ~~(a)(1) The four-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing~~  
6 ~~an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall~~  
7 ~~be \$62.00. The two-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for~~  
8 ~~licensing an operator or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be \$39.00~~  
9 The eight-year fee required to be paid the Commissioner for licensing an  
10 operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an operator's privilege card shall be  
11 \$124.00, and the two-year fee for licensing a junior operator or for issuing a  
12 junior operator's privilege card shall be \$39.00.

13 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection:

14 (A) for an individual whose household income is less than 150  
15 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, the eight-year fee required to be paid the  
16 Commissioner for licensing an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an  
17 operator's privilege card shall be \$0.00; and

18 (B) for an individual whose household income is less than 200  
19 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, the eight-year fee required to be paid the  
20 Commissioner for licensing an operator of motor vehicles or for issuing an  
21 operator's privilege card shall be \$62.00.









1 name, including individuals with multiple first or last names, or whose names  
2 contain special characters; and

3 (2) unhoused individuals and individuals without a permanent residence  
4 be able to obtain an operator's license, privilege card, or nondriver  
5 identification.

6 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles shall, on or before December 31,  
7 2025, report to the House and Senate Committees on Transportation regarding:

8 (1) the Department's ability to issue operator's licenses, privilege cards,  
9 and nondriver identification cards that accurately reflects the holder's full,  
10 legal name;

11 (2) any technological, practical, or legal impediments that prevent the  
12 Department from issuing operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver  
13 identification cards that accurately reflect the holder's full, legal name;

14 (3) any measures necessary to address the impediments identified  
15 pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection;

16 (4) legal and practical issues that prevent or limit the Department's  
17 ability to issue operator's licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver  
18 identifications to individuals who are unhoused or who lack a permanent  
19 residence;

1           (5) a proposed process to enable the Department to issue operator's  
2           licenses, privilege cards, and nondriver identifications to individuals who are  
3           unhoused or who lack a permanent residence; and

4           (6) any legislative action necessary to implement the process described  
5           pursuant to subdivision (5) of this subsection.

6           Sec. 6. OUTREACH

7           (a) On or before November 15, 2025, the Department of Motor Vehicles  
8           shall develop and implement a public education and outreach campaign to  
9           inform Vermont residents about:

10           (1) an individual's rights to obtain an operator's license, privilege card,  
11           or nondriver identification card;

12           (2) the ability to obtain an operator's license, privilege card, or  
13           nondriver identification card that expires eight years after the date of issue;

14           (3) an individual's rights to self-attest with respect to the gender marker  
15           on the individual's operator's license, privilege card, or nondriver  
16           identification card; and

17           (4) reduced fees and fee waivers that are available to households that  
18           meet certain income thresholds.

19           (b) The education and outreach campaign shall include printed materials  
20           and public service announcements on television, radio, internet, and social  
21           media.

1        (c) Public service announcements created for the education and outreach  
2        campaign shall be in both English and Spanish. Printed materials created for  
3        the education and outreach campaign shall be in English, Spanish, and the next  
4        eight most commonly spoken languages in Vermont.

5        Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE

6        This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.