Driver License Division Report

September 18, 2023, Transportation Interim Committee

Driver License exam report (53-3-206)

History

Historically the knowledge testing required prior to being issued a driving privilege had been offered exclusively in English.

- In 2011 SB 47 was passed which allowed a Refugee or an Approved asylee to take the test in their native language the first time they applied for a license. They were Issued a Limited term license to expire in four years. The applicant would be required to take the test in English in connection with the first renewal.
- In 2018 HB189 was passed which changed the limited term license for a Refugee or Approved Asylee to have a five-year life cycle. Additionally, it changed the requirement to retest in English to be in connection with the second renewal application.
- In 2022 HB 163 passed which broadened the scope of those who qualified to Apply under the Limited term for Refugees and Asylees testing procedures to include "Covered Humanitarian Parolees"
- In 2022 SB 216 was passed which allowed an applicant for an original or renewal of a class D license to take an examination of their knowledge of the state traffic laws in "Certain" languages (five languages were to be identified). These languages were to be determined through consultation with the Division of Multicultural Affairs.
- In 2023 HB 141 was passed which allows the division to begin administering certain examinations in languages other than English. Individuals may request testing in their preferred language subject to availability, for their original application or first renewal. If their preferred language cannot be proctored through the technology the division has a translator may be permitted in certain circumstances.

HB 141 Report

Working with the Office of Refugee services the following languages have been made available.

Arabic

Swahili

Dari

Working with the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Health Department the following five languages were selected in 2022.

Spanish

Portuguese

Mandarin Chinese

Vietnamese

Tongan

In 2023 the following five languages have been added.

Ukraine

Korean

French

Tagolog

Somali

Funding Report

HB 141 appropriated $71,700.00.

Programing and Maintenance cost $10,380.00

Test modifications and translation maintenance cost $38,700.00

Hardware $36,360

For a total cost of $85,440.00

Future expansion

It has been our experience that adding approximately five additional languages in a year is optimal. This pace balances resource requirements and timelines effectively.