

AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES; AUTHORIZING OPTIONAL EIGHT-YEAR TERMS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF DRIVER'S LICENSES AND IDENTIFICATION CARDS; PRESCRIBING FEES; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE CODE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 66-5-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 243, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-5-21. EXPIRATION OF LICENSE--FOUR-YEAR ISSUANCE PERIOD--EIGHT-YEAR ISSUANCE PERIOD.--

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, Section 66-5-19 NMSA 1978 and Section 66-5-67 NMSA 1978, all driver's licenses shall be issued for a period of four years and each license shall expire thirty days after the applicant's birthday in the fourth year after the effective date of the license. A license issued pursuant to Section 66-5-19 NMSA 1978 shall expire thirty days after the applicant's birthday in the year in which the license expires. Each license is renewable within ninety days prior to its expiration or at an earlier date approved by the department. The fee for the license shall be as provided in Section

66-5-44 NMSA 1978. The department may provide for renewal by

mail of a driver's license issued pursuant to the provisions of this subsection, pursuant to rules adopted by the department and may require an examination upon renewal of the driver's license.

B. At the option of an applicant, a driver's license may be issued for a period of eight years, provided that the applicant:

(1) pays the amount required for a driver's license issued for a term of eight years;

(2) otherwise qualifies for a four-year driver's license; and

(3) will not reach the age of seventy-five during the last four years of the eight-year license period.

C. A driver's license issued pursuant to the provisions of Subsection B of this section shall expire thirty days after the applicant's birthday in the eighth year after the effective date of the license."

Section 2. Section 66-5-44 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 266, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-5-44. LICENSES AND PERMITS--DURATION AND FEE--
APPROPRIATION.--

A. There shall be paid to the department a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) for each driver's license or duplicate driver's license, except that for a driver's license issued for an eight-year period, a fee of twenty dollars (\$20.00)

shall be paid to the department. Each license shall be for a term provided for in Section 66-5-21 NMSA 1978.

B. For each permit and instruction permit, there shall be paid to the department a fee of two dollars (\$2.00). The term for each permit shall be as provided in Sections 66-5-8 and 66-5-9 NMSA 1978.

C. The director with the approval of the governor may increase the amount of the fees provided for in this section by an amount not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) for the purpose of implementing an enhanced driver's license system; provided that for a driver's license issued for an eight-year period, the amount of the fees shall be twice the amount charged for other driver's licenses. The additional amounts collected pursuant to this subsection are appropriated to the department to defray the expense of the new system of licensing.

D. There shall be paid to the department a driver safety fee of three dollars (\$3.00) for each driver's license or duplicate driver's license, except that for a driver's license issued for an eight-year period, a fee of six dollars (\$6.00) shall be paid to the department. The fee shall be distributed to each school district for the purpose of providing defensive driving instruction through the state equalization guarantee distribution made annually pursuant to the general appropriation act."

Section 3. Section 66-5-67 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 14, Section 16, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-5-67. EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL--STAGGERED LICENSING DURING IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.--

A. Except as provided in Subsection C of this section, a commercial driver's license issued pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Commercial Driver's License Act shall expire thirty days after the applicant's birthday in the fourth year after the effective date of the license.

B. The license is renewable within ninety days prior to its expiration or at an earlier date as approved by the secretary.

C. At the option of an applicant, a commercial driver's license may be issued for a period of eight years, provided that the applicant:

(1) pays the amount required for a commercial driver's license issued for a term of eight years;

(2) otherwise qualifies for a four-year commercial driver's license; and

(3) will not reach the age of seventy-five during the last four years of the eight-year license period.

D. A driver's license issued pursuant to the provisions of Subsection C of this section shall expire thirty days after the applicant's birthday in the eighth year after the effective date of the license."

Section 4. Section 66-5-403 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1973, Chapter 269, Section 3) is amended to read:

"66-5-403. EXPIRATION OF IDENTIFICATION CARDS--
DURATION.--

A. Except as provided in Subsection B of this section, every identification card shall be issued for a period not to exceed four years and shall expire on the last day of the month of the identified person's birth in the fourth year after the effective date of the identification card. The identification card may be renewed within ninety days prior to its expiration.

B. At the option of the applicant for an identification card, a card may be issued for a period of eight years, provided that the applicant pays the amount required for an identification card issued for a term of eight years. An identification card issued pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall expire on the last day of the month of the applicant's birth in the eighth year after the effective date of the identification card. The identification card may be renewed within ninety days prior to its expiration."

Section 5. Section 66-5-408 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1978, Chapter 35, Section 335, as amended) is amended to read:

"66-5-408. FEES.--

A. Upon application for an identification card with a four-year term, there shall be paid to the department a fee of five dollars (\$5.00). Upon application for an identification card with an eight-year term, there shall be paid to the department a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00). A fee shall not be charged to an applicant for an identification card if the applicant is at least seventy-five years of age.

B. The department with the approval of the governor may increase the amount of the identification card fee by an amount not to exceed three dollars (\$3.00) for the purpose of implementing an enhanced licensing system; provided that for an identification card issued for an eight-year period, the amount of the fee shall be twice the amount charged for other identification cards. The additional amounts collected pursuant to this subsection are appropriated to the department to defray the expense of the new system of licensing."

Section 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999. _____