



**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO SENATE BILL 480**

February 10, 2014 – Offered by Senator RISSER.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 343.16 (3) (a); *to amend* 343.165 (4) (d) and
2 343.20 (1) (a); and *to create* 343.16 (3) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** the
3 renewal of operator's licenses by persons 75 years of age or older.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, most operator's licenses issued by the Department of Transportation (DOT) must be renewed every eight years. In general, an applicant for renewal of an operator's license must pass an eyesight test and have his or her photograph taken, but the applicant may provide a report of satisfactory eyesight from an eye care professional in lieu of DOT's eyesight examination.

Under this substitute amendment, a person who is 75 years of age or older (elderly driver) must renew his or her operator's license every four years rather than every eight years. The substitute amendment also allows an elderly driver to renew his or her operator's license by mail or by electronic means established by DOT if the elderly driver provides DOT with a report of satisfactory eyesight from an eye care professional. No photograph is taken at the time of renewal if an elderly driver renews his or her operator's license by mail or electronic means. An elderly driver may renew his or her operator's license by mail or electronic means only at every

other renewal period. The substitute amendment requires DOT to establish an electronic means for operator's license renewal.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 343.16 (3) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 343.16 (3) (a) 1. and
2 amended to read:

3 343.16 (3) (a) 1. Except as provided in subd. 2., par. (c), and s. 343.165 (4) (d),
4 the department shall examine every applicant for the renewal of an operator's
5 license once every 8 years or, if the applicant will be 75 years of age or older when the
6 renewal period commences, once every 4 years. The department may institute a
7 method of selecting the date of renewal so that such examination shall be required
8 for each applicant for renewal of a license to gain a uniform rate of examinations.
9 The examination shall consist of a test of eyesight. The department shall make
10 provisions for giving such eyesight examinations at examining stations in each
11 county to all applicants for an operator's license. The person to be examined shall
12 appear at the examining station nearest the person's place of residence or at such
13 time and place as the department designates in answer to an applicant's request.

14 2. In lieu of an eyesight examination under subd. 1., the applicant may present
15 or mail to the department a report of examination of the applicant's eyesight by an
16 ophthalmologist, optometrist or physician licensed to practice medicine. The report
17 shall be based on an examination made not more than 3 months prior to the date it
18 is submitted. The report shall be on a form furnished and in the form required by
19 the department. The department shall decide whether, in each case, the eyesight
20 reported is sufficient to meet the current eyesight standards.

21 **SECTION 2.** 343.16 (3) (c) of the statutes is created to read:

1 343.16 (3) (c) 1. Subject to subd. 2., an applicant for renewal of an operator's
2 license who will be 75 years of age or older when the renewal period commences may
3 renew the operator's license by mail or by electronic means established by the
4 department if the applicant provides the department with a report of examination
5 of the applicant's eyesight that satisfies the requirements under par. (a) 2.

6 2. An applicant may not, under subd. 1., make consecutive renewals of an
7 operator's license by mail or electronic means.

8 3. The department shall establish an electronic means for renewal of an
9 operator's license as provided in subd. 1.

10 **SECTION 3.** 343.165 (4) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

11 343.165 (4) (d) With any license or identification card renewal following a
12 license or identification card expiration established under s. 343.20 (1m) or 343.50
13 (5) (c) at other than an 8-year interval, the department may determine whether the
14 applicant's photograph is to be taken, or if the renewal is for a license the applicant
15 is to be examined, or both, at the time of such renewal, so long as the applicant's
16 photograph is taken, and if the renewal is for a license the applicant is examined,
17 with a license or card renewal at least once every 8 years and the applicant's license
18 or identification card at all times includes a photograph unless an exception under
19 s. 343.14 (3m) or 343.50 (4g) applies. With any license renewal by an applicant who
20 will be 75 years of age or older when the renewal period commences, the department
21 may determine whether the applicant's photograph is to be taken at the time of
22 renewal so long as the applicant's photograph is taken with a license renewal at least
23 once every 8 years and the applicant's license at all times includes a photograph
24 unless the exception under s. 343.14 (3m) applies. However, an applicant who

1 renews an operator's license by mail or electronic means as provided in s. 343.16 (3)
2 (c) shall not have his or her photograph taken at the time of this renewal.

3 **SECTION 4.** 343.20 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 343.20 (1) (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter,
5 probationary licenses issued under s. 343.085, licenses issued after cancellation
6 under s. 343.26 (1), and original licenses other than instruction permits shall expire
7 2 years from the date of the applicant's next birthday. Subject to s. 343.125 (3), all
8 other licenses and license endorsements shall expire 8 years after the date of
9 issuance or, if an applicant for renewal of a license will be 75 years of age or older on
10 the current license expiration date, 4 years after the current expiration date. The
11 department may institute any system of initial license issuance which it deems
12 advisable for the purpose of gaining a uniform rate of renewals. In order to put such
13 a system into operation, the department may issue licenses which are valid for any
14 period less than the ordinary effective period of such license. If the department
15 issues a license that is valid for less than the ordinary effective period as authorized
16 by this paragraph, the fees due under s. 343.21 (1) (b) and (d) shall be prorated
17 accordingly.

18 **SECTION 5. Initial applicability.**

19 (1) This act first applies to renewal applications received by the department of
20 transportation on the effective date of this subsection.

21 **SECTION 6. Effective date.**

22 (1) This act takes effect on the first day of the 4th month beginning after
23 publication.

24 (END)