January 30, 2018 – Introduced by Representatives Vruwink, Anderson and Sinicki. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

AN ACT to amend 343.16 (3) (a), 343.165 (4) (d), 343.20 (1) (a), 343.21 (1) (a),
343.21 (1) (bg), 343.21 (1) (c), 343.21 (1) (d) and 343.21 (1) (n) of the statutes;
relating to: operator’s license renewals by a person 67 years of age or older.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau
Under current law, most operator’s licenses issued by the Department of
Transportation must be renewed every eight years. An applicant for renewal of an
operator’s license must pass an eyesight test and pay a fee.
Under this bill, a person who is 67 years of age or older must renew his or her
operator’s license every two years rather than every eight years. With each renewal,
the person must pass an eyesight test and pay a fee that is 25 percent of the fee that
would be applicable if the renewal period were eight years.
For further information see the state fiscal estimate, which will be printed as
an appendix to this bill.

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

SECTION 1. 343.16 (3) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:
343.16 (3) (a) Except as provided in s. 343.165 (4) (d), the department shall
examine every applicant for the renewal of an operator’s license once every 8 years
or, if the applicant will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period commences, once every 2 years. The department may institute a method of selecting the date of renewal so that such examination shall be required for each applicant for renewal of a license to gain a uniform rate of examinations. Subject to par. (am), the examination shall consist of a test of eyesight. The department shall make provisions for giving such examinations at examining stations in each county to all applicants for an operator’s license. The person to be examined shall appear at the examining station nearest the person’s place of residence or at such time and place as the department designates in answer to an applicant’s request. In lieu of examination, the applicant may present or mail to the department a report of examination of the applicant’s eyesight by an ophthalmologist, optometrist or physician licensed to practice medicine. The report shall be based on an examination made not more than 3 months prior to the date it is submitted. The report shall be on a form furnished and in the form required by the department. The department shall decide whether, in each case, the eyesight reported is sufficient to meet the current eyesight standards.

**SECTION 2.** 343.165 (4) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.165 (4) (d) With any license or identification card renewal following a license or identification card expiration established under s. 343.20 (1m) or 343.50 (5) (c) at other than an 8-year interval, the department may determine whether the applicant’s photograph is to be taken, or if the renewal is for a license the applicant is to be examined, or both, at the time of such renewal, so long as the applicant’s photograph is taken, and if the renewal is for a license the applicant is examined, with a license or card renewal at least once every 8 years and the applicant’s license or identification card at all times includes a photograph unless an exception under
s. 343.14 (3m) or 343.50 (4g) applies. With any license renewal by an applicant who
will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period commences, the department
may determine whether the applicant’s photograph is to be taken at the time of
renewal so long as the applicant’s photograph is taken with a license renewal at least
once every 8 years and the applicant’s license at all times includes a photograph
unless the exception under s. 343.14 (3m) applies.

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

343.20 (1) (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this chapter,
probationary licenses issued under s. 343.085 shall expire 2 years from the date of
the applicant’s next birthday. Licenses issued after cancellation shall expire on the
expiration date for the prior license at the time of cancellation. Subject to s. 343.125
(3), all other licenses and license endorsements shall expire 8 years after the date of
issuance or, if an applicant for renewal of a license will be 67 years of age or older on
the current license expiration date, 2 years after the current expiration date. The
department may institute any system of initial license issuance which it deems
advisable for the purpose of gaining a uniform rate of renewals. In order to put such
a system into operation, the department may issue licenses which are valid for any
period less than the ordinary effective period of such license. If the department
issues a license that is valid for less than the ordinary effective period as authorized
by this paragraph, the fees due under s. 343.21 (1) (b) and (d) shall be prorated
accordingly.

SECTION 4. 343.21 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.21 (1) (a) For the initial issuance or renewal of a license authorizing only
the operation of “Class D” motor vehicles, other than a probationary license under
s. 343.085, $24 or, for renewal under this paragraph if the applicant will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period commences, $6.

SECTION 5. 343.21 (1) (bg) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.21 (1) (bg) For the renewal of authorization to operate “Class M” motor vehicles, $8 or, if the applicant will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period commences, $2 in addition to any other fees due.

SECTION 6. 343.21 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.21 (1) (c) For the initial issuance or renewal of authorization to operate school buses that are not commercial motor vehicles, $10, or for renewal under this paragraph if the applicant will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period commences, $2.50.

SECTION 7. 343.21 (1) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

343.21 (1) (d) Except as provided in s. 343.16 (2) (f) 3., for the initial issuance or renewal of authorization to operate “Class A”, “Class B” or “Class C” motor vehicles, or upgrading an existing regular license which only authorizes the operation of “Class D” motor vehicles, $64 or, for renewal under this paragraph if the applicant will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period commences, $16. This fee includes issuance of any “H”, “N”, “P”, or “T” endorsements or “Class D” authorization applied for at the same time for which the applicant is qualified. Except as provided in s. 343.16 (2) (f) 3., an additional fee of $5 is required for the issuance or renewal of any “S” endorsement applied for or renewed at the same time for which the applicant is qualified, except that the additional fee for renewal of an “S” endorsement under this paragraph is $1.25 if the applicant will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period commences.

SECTION 8. 343.21 (1) (n) of the statutes is amended to read:
343.21 (1) (n) Except as provided in s. 343.16 (2) (f) 3., in addition to any other
fee under this subsection, for the issuance, renewal, upgrading, or reinstatement of
any license, endorsement, or instruction permit, a license issuance fee of $10 or, for
renewal by an applicant who will be 67 years of age or older when the renewal period
commences, $2.50.

SECTION 9. Initial applicability.

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