



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 43

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

Memo published: March 24, 2005

Contact: Philip G. Cardis, Staff Attorney (267-0683)

Under **current law**, a person who applies for a new driver's license, must, under most circumstances, demonstrate his or her knowledge of the rules of the road and his or her driving skills in a test administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Most drivers' licenses issued by DOT must be renewed every eight years. To renew a license to drive an automobile or a motorcycle, an applicant must pass a test of his or her eyesight. Current law allows the Secretary of DOT to require any person to submit to additional testing to determine incompetency, incapacity, disease, or impairment that may prevent the person from exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle. Under current law, most drivers pay \$15 to take up to three driving skills tests.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 provides that a person who is at least 75 years of age but less than 85 years of age must pass a test of his or her eyesight every three years. A person who is at least 85 must pass a test of his or her eyesight and demonstrate his or her knowledge of traffic laws (written test) every two years. The substitute amendment specifically directs DOT that when determining whether a person passes a test for licensure, that DOT shall, whenever possible, consider issuing a restricted operator's license that would enable the person to operate a vehicle with restrictions including, but not limited to, the type of vehicle, special equipment, time of day of operation, and specific geographic areas and streets or routes of travel.

The substitute amendment requires DOT to submit to the Legislature a report on the effects of the proposed legislation on highway safety and a report on effects of aging and driving ability and transportation alternatives for older drivers.

Additionally, under the substitute amendment drivers are charged \$13 for each driving skills test that he or she takes.

Also, the substitute amendment authorizes the creation of 2.5 SEG positions in DOT to conduct the required studies relating to older drivers and to administer driver licensing services.

Legislative History

On March 24, 2005, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 for adoption by a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 5. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 9; Noes, 5.

PGC:rv