

# **New Laws and Information**

## **Driver's License and Identification Card Fee Increases**

As of July 1, 2023, all credential fees (including driver's licenses, identification cards, commercial learner's permits and duplicates) increased by \$6. A 75-cent surcharge (previously known as the REAL ID surcharge) was added to all driver's license fees, for a total increase of \$6.75 for driver's license fees. As of Oct. 1, 2023, filing fees for new credential applications increased to \$16 and filing fees for renewal applications increased to \$11. Please visit our website to view current fees.

## **Driver's License for All**

Beginning Oct. 1, 2023, DVS will implement Driver's License for All. This new law allows ALL Minnesotans to obtain a standard Minnesota identification card, permit or license regardless of their immigration status. The law eliminates the need to show proof of legal presence in the United States and updates the documents an individual will provide to obtain a card.

## **REAL ID Proof of Residency Changes**

The documents that an applicant can provide to prove their residence for REAL ID have been updated as of Aug. 1, 2023. The new proof documents include internet bills and cable bills to be used as utility bills, as well as allowing assisted living/nursing home statements. The address on the proof of residency document must match the address on the application. Please visit our website for the updated list of proof documents.

## **Caretaker Information Included on Driver's License or Identification Card Record**

Minnesotans can now add information to their DVS record that will notify law enforcement that they are a caretaker for someone else. In the event of a crash, law enforcement officers will know that there is someone at home who is dependent on the caretaker. This means that authorities can quickly respond to ensure the dependent individual is not left unattended. Not only does it offer reassurance

that loved ones will be taken care of if the worst happens, but it also relieves anxiety and stress at the thought of leaving loved ones alone.

### **Fee and Tax Exemptions for Veterans with Total Service-Connected Disability**

This new law exempts veterans with a 100 percent total-service connected disability from registration and wheelage taxes for up to two vehicles, title fees and fees associated with driver's license and identification cards, including filing fees. Expansion of Eligibility for Veteran Designation on Credential This new law expands the types of veterans able to get the veteran indicator, as well as the proof documents permitted. The law allows a greater number of Minnesota veterans to have the veteran indicator displayed on their driver's license or identification card. Qualified applicants now include retired members of the National Guard or a reserve component of the U.S. armed forces. Proof documents include military retiree ID cards, veteran ID cards and veteran health ID cards, in addition to the DD-214 showing honorable or honorable conditions with 181 days of consecutive service.

### **Elimination of Written Test Requirement for New Minnesota Residents**

Applicants for a Minnesota driver's license who are 21 and older and hold a valid, unexpired license from another state will no longer be required to take the written test.

This new law also waives the written test requirement if the applicant holds a valid two-wheeled (motorcycle) endorsement from another state.

### **Option to Provide Race and Ethnicity Data with Applications**

Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, applications for new and renewed driver's licenses and identification cards will ask applicants to provide race and ethnicity data.

Providing this data is voluntary and classified as private. Data will be

shared with the Department of Public Safety Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for purposes of studying traffic citations, drivers' education and more.

### **Expansion of Driver's License for Medical Reason**

Creates the option for a 15-year-old to obtain a driver's license related to their own medical needs, the medical needs of a relative or for a disabled relative with difficulty driving. Applicant must meet requirements and provide required documentation. More information regarding exemptions to the minimum age requirement are found in Chapter 1.

### **Expansion of Restricted License for Farm Work**

Expands eligibility for the restricted farm license (underage drivers) to include applicants who are employed on a farm, regardless of whether their parent or guardian owns the farm. Other restrictions for the farm license remain the same. More information regarding exemptions to the minimum age requirement are found in Chapter 1.

### **Remote Application Option for Incarcerated Individuals**

Authorizes remote renewal of driver's licenses and identification cards for applicants who are serving a sentence of longer than six months in a jail or correctional facility that does not have an existing agreement with DVS to provide this service.

### **Reintegration License**

This new law creates the opportunity for qualifying applicants released from prison to obtain a valid driver's license without payment of outstanding fines or reinstatement fees. Applicants must meet eligibility requirements. The card expires 15 months after issuance and is cancelled if the applicant commits any violation that would result in a withdrawal of driving privileges.

### **Driver's Manual and Study Materials**

This new law instructed DVS to create study materials for the written and road tests to assist individuals in preparing to take the required driving tests. Materials are available on the DVS website.

### **Changes to Voter Registration for Driver's License and Identification Card Applications**

Rather than “opting in” to register to vote when applying for or renewing a driver's license or identification card, data on applicants who provide documentation of citizenship (U.S. Passport, U.S. Birth Certificate, Certificate of Citizenship, etc.) will be automatically transmitted to the Office of Secretary of State to register the individual to vote.

If an individual has previously applied for a driver's license or identification card in Minnesota, DVS may no longer have a record of the documents they used to prove identity. The person may provide documentation demonstrating citizenship to begin the voter registration process under the new system. DVS will not send data to the Office of Secretary of State if the applicant provided these documents prior to Oct. 1, 2023.

If an individual does not wish to be registered to vote after providing DVS with citizenship documents, they must opt out with the Office of Secretary of State. More information about voting can be found at: [www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/register-to-vote](http://www.sos.mn.gov/elections-voting/register-to-vote).

### **Completing the Pre-Application Makes Office Visits Quicker**

The pre-application in DVS online services will allow you to enter a significant portion of your application online and reduce the time spent at the counter when completing the transaction.

DVS online services, also available on mobile devices, includes the list of required documents for each license type so you can have all the necessary documents ready when you visit a driver's license office. Please be sure to bring your confirmation page and the documents listed on the confirmation letter.

Start your application online using the pre-application feature, no more than 30 days before visiting the driver's license office, to eliminate the need to complete a paper application.