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Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Schmidt

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to administer all drivers' exams in English.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Drivers' exams in English

The bill requires the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to administer all drivers' exams in English. The Registrar administers exams for all the following licenses: a commercial driver's license temporary instruction permit, a commercial driver's license, a temporary instruction permit (for a standard driver's license), a driver's license, a motorcycle operator's endorsement and license, and a motor-driven cycle or motor scooter endorsement and license. Exams include a knowledge test of applicable motor vehicle laws and a skills test.[1]

Current law allows the Registrar to conduct those exams in a manner that a person who is illiterate or limited in their knowledge of English can understand. However, the Registrar must use methods that indicate the person has a reasonable knowledge of motor vehicle laws and understands highway traffic control devices that are printed in English.[2] The Registrar currently administers knowledge tests (in text and audio) in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Russian, Somali, and Spanish. The knowledge test is also available in text and video through American Sign Language. If testing is needed in another language, a person may schedule a proctored test with an interpreter.[3]

[1] R.C. 4506.091 and 4507.11(A)(1).

[2] R.C. 4507.11(A)(1).

[3] See "Knowledge Test" which can be found by clicking on "Licenses & ID Cards" and then "First Issuance" on the Bureau of Motor Vehicle's website at: bmv.ohio.gov.

The bill specifies that the Registrar cannot authorize the use of a translator, translation dictionary, an electronic device, or an interpreter to assist with the administration of any exam except as necessary to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Thus, the bill allows exams to still be administered in American Sign Language.[4]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	03-11-26

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[4] R.C. 4506.091 and 4507.11(A)(1).