

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 481

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES AND SENATOR BISHOP

MTR VEHICLE/DRIVER LIC: Provides relative to the issuance and possession of drivers' licenses

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 32:411(F)(1) and 412(D)(6) and to enact R.S. 32:411(F)(3),
3 relative to the issuance and possession of drivers' licenses; to provide for the issuance
4 of a digitized driver's license; to provide new requirements for the issuance of a
5 driver's license that was renewed by mail or electronic commerce; and to provide for
6 related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 32:411(F)(1) and 412(D)(6) are hereby amended and reenacted and
9 R.S. 32:411(F)(3) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

10 §411. Deposit of license in lieu of security upon arrest; receipt; licensee to have
11 license or receipt in immediate possession; notification to vehicle owner;
12 surrender of license; issuance of temporary permits

13 * * *

14 F.(1) The licensee shall have his license, or a digitized driver's license as
15 provided in this Section, in his immediate possession at all times when driving a
16 motor vehicle and shall display it upon demand of any officer or agent of the
17 department or any police officer of the state, parish, or municipality, except that
18 where the licensee has previously deposited his license as provided in Subsection C
19 of this Section, and has received a receipt, as provided in Subsection D of this
20 Section, the licensee shall display the receipt upon demand of any officer or agent

1 of the department or any police officer of the state, parish, or municipality, the same
 2 to serve as a substitute for the license until the license is returned to the licensee.
 3 However, when an officer or agent of the department or any police officer of the
 4 state, or any parish or municipality has reasonable grounds to believe a person has
 5 committed an offense of driving without a valid driver's license in his possession, the
 6 police officer shall make every practical attempt based on identifying information
 7 provided by the person to confirm that the person has been issued a valid driver's
 8 license. If the police officer determines that the person has been issued a valid
 9 driver's license which is neither under revocation, suspension, or cancellation, but
 10 that the license is not in his possession, the peace officer shall issue a written
 11 summons to the offender in accordance with law, commanding him to appear and
 12 answer the charge.

* * *

13
 14 (3)(a) For the purposes of this Paragraph, a digitized driver's license shall
 15 mean a data file available on any mobile device which has connectivity to the
 16 internet through an application which allows the mobile device to download the data
 17 file from the department or an authorized representative of the department, which
 18 contains all of the data elements visible on the face and back of the license, and also
 19 displays the current status of the license. For the purposes of this Subparagraph,
 20 "current status" shall include but is not limited to valid, expired, cancelled,
 21 suspended, disqualified, hardship, or interlock hardship status.

22 (b) A digital copy, photograph, or image of a driver's license which is not
 23 downloaded through the application on a mobile device shall not be a valid digitized
 24 driver's license as provided by this Section.

25 (c) If a person is unable to produce a physical driver's license issued by the
 26 department, in connection with a traffic stop or checkpoint, the person may present
 27 a digitized driver's license to a law enforcement officer and shall not be issued any
 28 citation for driving a motor vehicle without a valid license in his possession. Except
 29 as provided in this Paragraph, a law enforcement officer or a representative of the

1 department is authorized to require the person to produce the physical driver's license
2 issued by the department, even if the person has a digitized driver's license on his
3 mobile device, and the failure to produce such physical driver's license when so
4 requested shall subject the person to all the applicable laws and consequences for
5 failure to produce such license.

6 (d) The department shall promulgate such rules as are necessary to
7 implement a digitized driver's license. No digitized driver's license shall be valid
8 until the department has adopted such rules.

9 (e) The display of a digitized driver's license shall not serve as consent or
10 authorization for a law enforcement officer, or any other person, to search, view, or
11 access any other data or application on the mobile device. If a person presents their
12 mobile device to a law enforcement officer for purposes of displaying their digitized
13 driver's license, the law enforcement officer shall promptly return the mobile device
14 to the person once he has had an opportunity to verify the identity and license status
15 of the person.

16 * * *

17 §412. Amount of fees; credit or refund; duration of license; veteran designation;
18 university logo; "I'm a Cajun" designation; disbursement of funds; renewal
19 by mail or electronic commerce of Class "D" or "E" drivers' licenses;
20 disposition of certain fees; exception

21 * * *

22 D.(1) Upon application and payment of the fee imposed by this Chapter and
23 subject to the requirements of R.S. 32:408, a license shall be renewable on or before
24 its expiration. An application for renewal may be made at any time within one
25 hundred eighty days prior to expiration unless the renewal is otherwise restricted by
26 the department.

27 * * *

28 (6) When a license is renewed by mail or electronic commerce, the secretary
29 shall issue a new license which indicates the new expiration date ~~evidence of renewal~~

Proposed law modifies present law by requiring the secretary to issue a new license which indicates the new expiration date when a license is renewed by mail or electronic commerce.

(Amends R.S. 32:411(F)(1) and 412(D)(6); Adds R.S. 32:411(F)(3))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works to the original bill:

1. Make technical changes.
2. Authorize a licensee to have a digitized driver's license provided by the Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections, office of motor vehicles, as an alternative to his physical license.
3. Define digitized driver's license as a data file available on any mobile device which has connectivity to the internet through an application, which allows the mobile device to download the data file from the department or an authorized representative of the dept., which contains all of the data elements visible on the face and back of the physical license and the current status of the license and provide that a copy, photograph, or image of a driver's license not downloaded through the application on a mobile device is not a valid digitized driver's license.
4. Prohibit the issuance of a citation, in connection with a traffic stop or checkpoint, for driving a motor vehicle without a valid license in his possession if a person presents a digitized driver's license instead of a physical driver's license to a law enforcement officer.
5. Authorize a law enforcement officer or dept. representative to require a person to produce the physical driver's license issued by the department, except as provided for in proposed law, and provides that the failure to produce such physical driver's license subjects the person to all applicable laws and consequences for failure to produce such license.
6. Require the department to establish rules necessary to implement a digitized driver's license.
7. Specify that display of a digitized driver's license to a law enforcement officer, or any other person, does not permit the officer or other person to search, view, or access any other data or application on the mobile device and that the mobile device must be promptly returned to the owner once his identity and license status has been verified.