

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
94th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2023

As Engrossed: H3/29/23
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1548

By: Representative M. McElroy

By: Senator D. Wallace

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PERIOD OF TIME CERTAIN DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO WAIT TO COMPLETE THE DRIVER'S EXAMINATION; TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE PERIOD OF TIME CERTAIN DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO WAIT TO COMPLETE THE DRIVER'S EXAMINATION; AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 27-16-704(c)(1), concerning the examination requirements for driver's license applicants, is amended to read as follows:

(c)(1) ~~No~~ An applicant for an original license, that is, an applicant who has never been licensed previously by any jurisdiction, shall not be permitted to demonstrate ability to operate a motor vehicle as required under the provisions of this chapter unless and until the applicant has in his or her possession a valid instruction permit properly issued ~~not less than~~ thirty (30) days prior to the date of application, unless otherwise determined by the Office of Driver Services.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that agriculture makes up



approximately one-third (1/3) of the state's gross domestic product; that the State of Arkansas is experiencing labor shortages in all industries but specifically in transportation and agriculture; that the waiting periods required by law for a driver's license applicant to complete the driver's examination are arbitrary time periods that serve no specific purpose; that the agricultural planting season begins later this month and the agricultural labor force is in need of licensed drivers; and that migrant workers arriving in Arkansas to join the agricultural labor force need to be able to drive in order to provide their labor services as quickly as possible. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/M. McElroy