

Reported Recommending
Ind. Postponed
Passed House
Failed to Pass House
Passed Senate
Failed to Pass Senate

House File 350

February 24, 1947.
Motor Vehicles and Transportation.

By AINSWORTH, MORRISSEY;
SCHWENGEL, WALKER,
LAWRENCE, (Berg, Beck-
man, Maytag).

A BILL FOR

An Act to amend chapter three hundred twenty-one (321), Code 1946, relating to extension and renewal of motor vehicle operators' licenses and fees therefor.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

1 Section 1. Amend section three hundred twenty-one point
2 one hundred ninety-six (321.196), Code 1946, by striking the
3 contents thereof and inserting in lieu thereof the following:
4 "The department shall extend every operator's license numbered
5 five hundred thousand and no hundreds (500,000) and above,
6 expiring July 5, 1948 for a period not to exceed the next
7 birthday of the licensee and shall extend every operator's
8 license numbered from one (1) to five hundred thousand and no
9 hundreds (500,000) expiring July 5, 1948 to July 5, 1949 and,
10 in addition thereto, for a period not to exceed the next birthday
11 of the licensee; provided, however, all licenses numbered from
12 one (1) to five hundred thousand and no hundreds (500,000) upon
13 application for renewal shall pay, in addition to the regular
14 license fee, an additional fifty per cent (50%) thereof to cover
15 the period from July 5, 1948 until their next birthday following

16 July 5, 1949. Birthdays occurring on February 29th shall be
17 deemed to occur on March 1, for the purpose of this act. All
18 operators licenses renewed after July 5, 1948, shall be made
19 under the direct supervision of a member of the Iowa highway
20 patrol and shall be approved by a member of said patrol.
21 The commissioner may, in his discretion, authorize the renewal
22 of a valid license upon application without an examination
23 provided that, a person holding such license has no conviction
24 of a traffic violation during the previous two years and,
25 provided that such person satisfactorily passes a vision test
26 as prescribed by the department.”

EXPLANATION OF H. F. 350

One of the most effective weapons of enforcement of traffic laws lies in the close supervision and control of the drivers licenses. Laws now in existence are fairly adequate but, because of the simultaneous expiration of licenses, the department of public safety has not been able to conduct examinations of applicants who have notably poor driving records even though authorized to do so in section 321.210. Furthermore, the “suspension law” (sec. 321.210) has not been utilized to the fullest extent because of the bottleneck of “bunched up” renewal applications.

The proposed two-year staggered renewal license bill will tend to gain more effective control over our driyers, and will enable the department to perform more efficient year round service. Further this act will: (1) Meet more popular approval, because of doing away with congestion and confusion at the time of license renewal. (2) Accomplish a great deal toward weeding out bad drivers. (3) Permit impartial personal attention by an experienced “safety conscious” examiner toward each applicant. (4) Save the state money by doing away with the inefficiency incident to employing temporary help. The bill requires vision tests by all renewal applicants with further examination to be discretionary with the examiner who will be a patrolman trained for such work. Traffic violators will be required to take the complete examination.

A large number of states now use the individual birth date for termination of operators licenses and all of them have found a tremendous increase in economy and efficiency of operation resulting from such a procedure.