

CHAPTER 479—H. F. No. 227

An act relating to licenses to operate motor vehicles upon the public highways; amending Minnesota Statutes 1945, Sections 171.13, 171.24, 171.27.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 171.13, is amended to read as follows:

171.13. **Examination; penalty for refusal to take.** *Subdivision 1. Examination; special provisions. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the commissioner shall examine each applicant for a driver's license by such agency as he directs. This examination shall include a test of applicant's eyesight; his ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and directing traffic; his knowledge of traffic laws; an actual demonstration of ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle; and any other physical and mental examinations as the commissioner finds necessary to determine the applicant's fitness to operate a motor vehicle safely upon the highways, provided, further however, no driver's license shall be denied an applicant on the exclusive grounds that the applicant's eyesight is deficient in color perception. Provided, however, that war veterans operating motor vehicles especially equipped for handicapped persons, shall, if otherwise entitled to a license, be granted such license. The commissioner shall make provision for giving these examinations either in the county where the applicant resides or at a place adjacent thereto reasonably convenient to the applicant.*

Subd. 2. Present owners of license. A driver's license shall be issued at any time without examination to any person who has been previously licensed as a driver provided that the applicant's license has not been theretofore cancelled.

Subd. 3. Examination of licensed driver. The commissioner may require an examination by such agency as he directs of any licensed driver, to determine incompetency, physical or mental disability or disease, or any other condition which might affect the driver from exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle. If as a result of the examination the commissioner believes that the driver is an unsafe person to operate a motor vehicle upon the public highways, he may cancel the driver's license of the person.

The commissioner shall *give the person written notice of the cancellation.*

Subd. 4. License canceled on refusal to take examination. If a licensee does not submit to any examination required under the provisions of subdivision 3, the commissioner may cancel the driver's license of the licensee. If such license is canceled, the licensee shall immediately surrender to the department all driver's license certificates in his possession.

This section shall take effect January 1, 1948.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 171.24, is amended to read as follows:

171.24. Any person whose driver's license or driving privilege has been canceled, suspended, or revoked as provided in this chapter who *operates* any motor vehicle, the operation of which requires a driver's license, upon the highways in this state while such license or privilege is canceled, suspended, or revoked *is guilty of a misdemeanor; and, upon conviction, for a first offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$10 or by imprisonment for not less than ten days, and for a second and each subsequent offense shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 or by imprisonment for not less than 30 days.*

It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate any of the provisions of this chapter unless such violation is by any law declared to be a felony or a gross misdemeanor.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 171.27, is amended to read as follows:

171.27. **Expiration of licenses.** The expiration date for each drivers license *is the birthday of the driver in the fourth year following the date of issuance of the license. The birthday of the driver shall be as indicated on his application for a drivers license. Upon application and payment of the required fee driving privileges shall be extended or renewed on or preceding the expiration date of an existing drivers license without examination unless the commissioner believes that the licensee is no longer qualified as a driver.*

Approved April 23, 1947.