

Motor Vehicle Division Informational Memo # 17-03

2017 Legislation – Commercial Learner’s Permit Renewal and Validity

DATE: June 14, 2017

FROM: Melissa Spiegel, Interim Director, MVD

TO: All Driver and Identification Services (DIS) staff, Iowa County Treasurers and County Treasurers’ staff that issue driver’s licenses.

SUBJECT

This informational memo explains legislation enacted during the 2017 legislative session regarding the renewal period and the length of validity of a Commercial Learner’s Permit (CLP).

SUMMARY

House File 463 amended Iowa Code section 321.180 to align the length of validity of a CLP to federal regulations in 49 C.F.R. 383. Currently, federal regulations and Iowa Code provide that the CLP may be issued for 180 days, with one 180-day renewal. However, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) exempted state driver’s license agencies from the regulation requiring the CLP renewal period to be 180 days with a 180-day renewal, and instead allows the CLP to be valid for one year upon issuance, with no renewal period. **The legislation is effective July 1, 2017, however we will not be able to issue the CLP for one year until programming has been changed.**

LINK TO LEGISLATION

2017 Iowa Acts, House File 463:

<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGE/87/HF463.pdf>

CURRENT

Under current law, a CLP is valid for 180 days and may be renewed for an additional 180 days without retaking the required general and endorsement knowledge tests.

NEW

The new legislation incorporates by reference the validity and renewal periods provided by the code of federal regulations as well as an exemption for state driver’s licensing agencies. Although the code of federal regulations specifies the same 180-day validity and renewal periods that is currently in Iowa Code, state driver’s licensing agencies are currently exempted from those periods by FMCSA, and may instead allow commercial learner’s permits to be valid for one year with no renewal period. With this change, Iowa will now be able to take advantage of the federal exemption.

BUSINESS IMPACT

The legislation will impact the current process for issuing and renewing a CLP. Programming will be needed to change the CLP issuance time period from 180 days to one year and to remove the renewal at 180 days.

RESULT

There will be programming, process and procedure changes to the CLP issuance process. Once the programming changes have been completed, we will issue a policy memo outlining the changes and the impact to staff.

HELPFUL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The following questions and answers provide additional information that will be helpful to you and to customers.

WHEN MAY WE START ISSUING A CLP FOR ONE YEAR?

The legislation will not be effective until July 1, 2017 and we will also need to complete programming changes before a CLP may be issued for one year.