





**WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

1900 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Five • Room 109  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305-0440 • 304/558-0444

Cecil H. Underwood  
Governor

Richard W. Jemiola  
Secretary

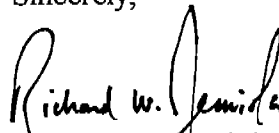
June 23, 1997

The Honorable Ken Hechler  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles is hereby authorized to promulgate proposed amendments to §91CSR5, Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges.

Sincerely,

  
Richard W. Jemiola  
Secretary

RWJ:sd

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer



**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Division of Motor Vehicles**

1800 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Three  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317-0010

Cecil H. Underwood  
Governor

Richard W. Jemiola  
Secretary

Jane L. Cline  
Commissioner

91 CSR 5

Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges  
Proposed Legislative Rule

Summary of Content

This rule establishes a procedure to suspend the driving privileges of persons who are delinquent in child support payment obligations. This penalty is imposed as a result of Federal mandates incorporated in the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

The proposed rule modifies the visual acuity standards for driver licensing. The rule change allows persons with a visual acuity level of between 20/40 and 20/60 to be eligible for licensing if an ophthalmologist or optometrist determines that the person can see well enough to drive with appropriate restrictions. These cases are currently reviewed by the Driver's License Advisory Board

The proposed changes also updates the rule to reflect new legislation, new agency names, rewords some provisions for greater clarity and redesignates certain subsections to reflect the current numbering system.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jane L. Cline", written over a horizontal line.

Jane L. Cline  
Commissioner



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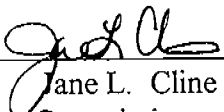
Denial, Suspension, Revocation, or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges  
Proposed Legislative Rule

Statement of Circumstances Requiring Filing

House Bill 101 which passed during the First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature requires the suspension of driving privileges of persons who have been adjudicated as being in violation of a child support payment plan. This rule establishes the procedures which this agency will follow when acting on notice from the Circuit Courts or the Child Support Enforcement Division.

The rule also modifies the visual acuity standards for driver's licensing. This change will streamline the application and review process of lower vision drivers. This rule will allow the agency to place more reliance on the professional judgement of the applicant's personal ophthalmologist or optometrist. The Driver's License Advisory Board has determined that the current 20/40 visual acuity standard is too limiting.

Other changes are minor in nature and update the rule to reflect changes in law as well as formatting and grammatical changes.

  
Jane L. Cline  
Commissioner

**APPENDIX B**

**FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES**

**Rule Title:** Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges

**Type of Rule:**  X  Legislative   Interpretive   Procedural

**Agency:** Division of Motor Vehicles

**Address:** Building Three, Capitol Complex  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317

**1. Effect of Proposed Rule**

|                             | ANNUAL   |          | FISCAL YEAR |      |            |
|-----------------------------|----------|----------|-------------|------|------------|
|                             | INCREASE | DECREASE | CURRENT     | NEXT | THEREAFTER |
| <b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</b> | \$ 0     | \$ 0     | \$          | \$   | \$         |
| PERSONALSERVICES            |          |          |             |      |            |
| CURRENT EXPENSE             |          |          |             |      |            |
| REPAIRS & ALTERATIONS       |          |          |             |      |            |
| EQUIPMENT                   |          |          |             |      |            |
| OTHER                       |          |          |             |      |            |

**2. Explanation of above estimates:**

This rule by itself does not have any fiscal impact on the State. The requirement to suspend driver's licenses of persons who have unpaid child support obligations is mandated by Code, not this rule.

**3. Objectives of these rules:**

This rule implements Federal mandates to suspend the driver's licenses of persons with unpaid child support obligations. The rule also modifies the visual acuity standards for licensing.

**Rule Title:** Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges

**4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.**

**A. Economic Impact on State Government.**

None

**B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific Groups of Citizens.**

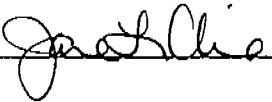
None

**C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large.**

None


**Date:** June 24, 1997

**Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative**

  
\_\_\_\_\_

DATE: July 25, 1997

TO: LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE

FROM:  Jane L. Cline, Commissioner

LEGISLATIVE RULE TITLE: Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges.

1. Authorizing statute(s) citation West Virginia Code §17A-2-9 and §17C-5A-2
  
2. a. Date filed in State Register with Notice of Hearing: June 24, 1997
  
- b. What other notice, including advertising, did you give of the hearing?  
Please see attached
  
- c. Date of hearing(s): Public Comment Period: June 24, 1997 through July 25, 1997
  
- d. Attach list of persons who appeared at hearing, comments received, amendments, reasons for amendments.  
  
Attached  No comments received
  
- e. Date you filed in State Register the agency approved proposed Legislative Rule following public hearing: (Be exact.)  
July 25, 1997
  
- f. Name and phone number(s) of agency person(s) to contact for additional information:  
Steven O. Dale, 558-2723

FILED

D8,7/97

JUL 25 1 01 PM '97

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

(PROPOSED)  
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RULES  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
91CSR5

Title: Denial, Suspension, Revocation, or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges

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§91-5-1. General

1.1 Scope - ~~These regulations establish~~ This rule establishes procedures for the denial, suspension, revocation, nonrenewal, administrative appeals and reinstatement of motor vehicle operating privileges.

1.2 Authority - West Virginia Code §17A-2-9 and §17C-5A-2.

1.3 Filing Date -

1.4 Effective Date -

1.5 Repeal of Former Rule - ~~These~~ This legislative rules repeals and replaces West Virginia Legislative Rules 91CSR9, Check Tendering Policy, filed January 15, 1968 and 91CSR14, Driving Under the Influence Driver License Revocation Administrative Hearings, filed April 4, 1984. 91CSR5 filed April 15, 1992 and effective May 1, 1992

§91-5-2. Application and Enforcement

2.1 Application - ~~These regulations apply~~ This rule applies to motor vehicle operators licensed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles.

2.2 Enforcement - Enforcement of ~~these regulations~~ this rule is vested with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or the Commissioner's lawful designee.

§91-5-3. Denial of Driving Privileges for Medical Reasons (~~Revised 1990~~)(Revised 1998)

3.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17B-2-3 provides that the Division of Motor Vehicles shall not issue any a driver's license to any person when the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles has good cause to believe that the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways of this State by such person would be inimical to public safety or welfare. West Virginia Code §17B-3-6 authorizes the Division to suspend the driver's license of any person without preliminary hearing upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle.

In view of these statutory provisions, the Division will not issue or renew a driver's license for any person when the Commissioner determines that the person is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle, or when the Commissioner has good cause to believe that the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways of this State by the person would be inimical to public safety or welfare, unless the application for the license is accompanied by a letter of explanation in such detail as the Commissioner may require concerning the mental or physical condition of the applicant at the time of application for license is made.

3.2 Procedures for Original, Renewal, or Duplicate Applications for License - The Commissioner, after reviewing the letter of explanation provided for in subsection 3.1 of this rule, may:

3.2.a. Approve the application for license;

3.2.b. Approve the application for license, and impose appropriate restrictions as the applicant's physical or mental condition may require; or

3.2.c. Require the applicant to present one or both of the following forms as prescribed by the Commissioner to the Driver's License Advisory Board:

1. Medical Report Form completed by a physician of the applicant's choice licensed in the United States.

2. Medical Report Form completed by a Board Certified Physician in the appropriate medical specialty for the condition under consideration, or

3. Vision Examination Report Form completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist of the applicant's choice licensed in the United States.

~~—The Medical Report Form and Vision Examination Report Form shall be provided by the Division. The Commissioner, upon receipt of the advice of the Driver's License Advisory Board, may take the action as indicated in subdivisions 3.2.a or 3.2.b of this rule, or may refuse the application or order the suspension of the license.~~

3.2.d. If an application for driver's license, or application for renewal of driver's license is refused by the Commissioner because of a physical or mental condition, the

Commissioner shall notify the applicant within seventy (70) calendar days from the date of application or renewal by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. The applicant is entitled to a hearing on the refusal by the Commissioner to issue or renew a driver's license.

~~The applicant or licensee has ten (10) calendar days from the date he or she receives notice of refusal to issue or renew a license to request a hearing. The written request must be filed with the Commissioner in person or by registered or certified mail, within ten days after receipt of a copy of the order of refusal or suspension. The hearing shall be before the Commissioner or an authorized deputy or agent of the Commissioner. All of the pertinent provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-1 et seq., apply to the hearing. The Commissioner shall hold the hearing as early as practical in the county where the person resides unless the Commissioner or the Hearing Examiner and such person agree that the hearing may be held in some other county. The Commissioner may postpone or continue any hearing at his discretion or upon application of the licensee for good cause shown.~~

~~For the purpose of conducting the hearing, the Commissioner has the power and authority pursuant to West Virginia Code §17B-3-6 to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum which shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-1.~~

~~The scope of the hearing is whether the operation of a motor vehicle on the public streets and highways of this state by the applicant would be inimical to public safety or welfare.~~

~~After the hearing and consideration of all the testimony and evidence in the case, the Commissioner shall make and enter an order affirming, rescinding, or modifying the earlier order of the Commissioner. The Commissioner shall mail the licensee or applicant a copy of the order by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.~~

~~If the Commissioner, after the hearing, does make and enter an order affirming his or her earlier order of denial, suspension or non-renewal, the licensee or applicant is entitled to judicial review as set forth in West Virginia Code, Chapter 29A.~~

3.3 Procedures for Medical or Vision Review - As provided by West Virginia Code §17B-3-6, the Division may suspend the driver's license of a licensee without a preliminary hearing upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to operate a motor vehicle.

3.3.a The Division may upon written notice of five days require the licensee to present on the form prescribed by the Commissioner to the Driver's License Advisory Board a;

1. Medical Report Form completed by a physician of the licensee's choice licensed in the United States.
2. Medical Report Form completed by a Board Certified physician in the

appropriate medical specialty for the condition under consideration.

3. Vision Examination Report Form completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist of the licensee's choice licensed in the United States.

~~The Medical Report Form and Vision Report Form shall be provided by the Division.~~

3.3.b The Commissioner, after reviewing the Medical Report or Vision Examination Report and the recommendation of the Driver's License Advisory Board, may:

1. Determine that the licensee is competent to drive a motor vehicle;
2. Determine that the licensee is competent to drive a motor vehicle if certain appropriate restrictions are imposed and impose such restrictions as the licensee's physical or mental condition may require; or
3. Determine that the licensee is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle, that no appropriate restrictions can be imposed under which the licensee could competently operate a motor vehicle, and order the suspension of the license until such time as the licensee is required permitted to submit further information to determine whether or not he is competent to drive a motor vehicle.

~~3.3.c. Upon making a determination that the licensee is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle, The Commissioner shall immediately make and enter an order suspending the license upon making a determination that the licensee is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle. The Division upon suspending a license, may, in the event the Commissioner determines that the continued operation of a motor vehicle by the licensee presents a clear and immediate danger to the licensee and others, require that the license be suspended surrendered to and be retained by the Division until the outcome of any hearing requested or until the end of the period of the suspension. The Division shall mail the licensee a copy of the order by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.~~

~~3.3.d. Upon receipt by the licensee of the Order of Suspension, the licensee shall have ten (10) days to request, in writing, a hearing upon the suspension by the Commissioner. The licensee must file a written request with the Commissioner in person or by registered or certified mail, within ten (10) days after receipt of a copy of the Order of Suspension. The hearing shall be before the Commissioner or an authorized deputy or agent of the Commissioner. All of the pertinent provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-1 et seq. apply to the hearing. The Division shall hold the hearing as early as practical in the county where the licensee resides unless the Commissioner or the Hearing Examiner and the licensee agree that the hearing may be held in some other county. The Commissioner may postpone or continue any hearing at his or her discretion or upon application of the licensee for good cause shown.~~

~~----- A timely request for a hearing may at the discretion of the Commissioner stay the Order of Suspension.~~

~~----- For the purpose of conducting a hearing, the Commissioner has the power and authority pursuant to West Virginia Code §17B-3-6 to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum which shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-1.~~

~~----- The scope of the hearing is whether the licensee is competent to operate a motor vehicle on the public streets and highways of this State. After the hearing and consideration of all the testimony and evidence in the case the Commissioner shall make and enter an Order affirming, rescinding, or modifying the earlier Order of the Commissioner.~~

~~----- The Division shall mail the licensee a copy of the order by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. If the Commissioner, after the hearing, does make and enter an order affirming his or her earlier Order of Suspension, the licensee shall be entitled to judicial review as set forth in West Virginia Code Chapter 29A.~~

### 3.4 Standards for Medical or Vision Review

3.4.a Medical - The Driver's License Advisory Board shall evaluate each medical case referred to it on an individual basis and make recommendations to the Commissioner for his or her decision.

3.4.b Vision - Conventional corrective lenses, including surgical intraocular implants and contact lenses, are acceptable for meeting the visual acuity requirements for any learner's permit or driver's license. Special equipment or special lens arrangements are not considered conventional for the purposes of this rule.

~~----- The Commissioner may require applicants or licensees who do not satisfy the visual acuity standard of 20/40 to submit a Vision Examination Report Form, completed by an optometrist or ophthalmologist, licensed in the United States, of the applicant's choice, to the Commissioner for presentation to the Driver's License Advisory Board. The Board may consider peripheral vision, depth perception and color recognition in their recommendation to the Commissioner. Additionally, the Commissioner may prescribe a traffic environment vision test be administered to the applicant or licensee by designated officers of the Division of Public Safety.~~

3.4.b. Vision- The State Police shall test each applicant for licensing to determine if the applicant has no serious visual defects and a visual acuity of at least 20/40 in both eyes with or without conventional corrective lenses. For the purposes of this rule, conventional corrective lenses including surgical intraocular transplants and contact lenses are acceptable for meeting the visual acuity requirements. Special equipment or special lens arrangements are not considered conventional for the purposes of this rule.

1. Applicants who do not meet the minimum visual acuity level or who show serious visual defects shall provide a vision examination form. The form shall be completed by an ophthalmologist or optometrist of the applicant's choice who is licensed in the United States. The applicant shall be approved as eligible for licensing if the ophthalmologist or optometrist certifies that the applicants vision:

A. can be corrected to a visual accuity level of at least 20/60 in one eye.

B. that there is no evidence of disease or rapid deterioration of vision and,

C. That the applicant can in the opinion of the ophthalmologist or optometrist safely operate a motor vehicle with appropriate restrictions as indicated.

2. The Driver's License Advisory Board shall consider any applicant whose vision can not be corrected to a visual accuity level of at least 20/60 in one eye, but who has been evaluated by an ophthalmologist or optometrist as being able to safely operate a motor vehicle. The Board may consider peripheral vision, depth perception and color recognition in their recommendation to the Commissioner. Additionally, the Commissioner may prescribe a traffic environment vision test be administered to the applicant or licensee by designated officers of the State Police.

3.5 Administrative Due Process -Any applicant or licensee may appeal the Commissioners decision of denial, suspension, restriction or non renewal of driving privileges by requesting a hearing. Any request for hearing shall not stay the original order.

3.5.a. The applicant or licensee has ten (10) calendar days from the date he or she receives notice of refusal to issue or renew a license to request a hearing. The written request must be filed with the Commissioner in person or by registered or certified mail, within ten days after receipt of a copy of the order the applicant or licensee wishes to contest. The hearing shall be before the Commissioner or an authorized deputy or agent of the Commissioner. All of the pertinent provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-1 et seq., apply to the hearing. The Commissioner shall hold the hearing as early as practical in the county where the person resides unless the Commissioner or the Hearing Examiner and such person agree that the hearing may be held in some other county. The Commissioner may postpone or continue any hearing at his or her discretion or at the request of the applicant or licensee upon a showing of good cause .

3.5.b. For the purpose of conducting the hearing, the Commissioner has the power and authority pursuant to West Virginia Code §17B-3-6 to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum which shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-1.

3.5.c. The scope of the hearing is whether the applicant or licensee is competent to operate a motor vehicle on the public streets and highways of this state or whether such operation by the applicant or licensee would be inimical to public safety or welfare.

3.5.d. After the hearing and consideration of all the testimony and evidence in the case, the Commissioner shall make and enter an order affirming, rescinding, or modifying the earlier order of the Commissioner within seventy (70) calendar days. The Commissioner shall mail the applicant or licensee a copy of the order by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.

3.5.e. If the Commissioner, after the hearing, does make and enter an order affirming his or her earlier order of denial, suspension, restriction or non-renewal, the applicant or licensee is entitled to judicial review as set forth in West Virginia Code, Chapter 29A.

#### §91-5-4. Reinstatement of Suspended Registration

4.1 Procedures - The Division shall destroy any license plate received in accordance with any of the provisions of the West Virginia Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law, Chapter 17D of the Code. This procedure is necessary because of the limited storage facilities available to the Division and by virtue of the cost which would be involved in attempting to store such plates. Accordingly, upon reinstatement of any registration within the registration period, the registrant must make application for a duplicate or substitute registration or license plate upon the form prescribed for such purpose, and remit the fee required by West Virginia Code §17A-10-11.

#### §91-5-5. Reinstatement of Driving Privileges of Persons Whose Driver's Licenses Were Revoked under Prior Enactment of West Virginia Code §17C-5-2.

5.1 Procedures - Any person whose driver's license has been revoked may apply for restoration of driving privileges at the end of the period of revocation or minimum period of revocation as the case may be. Any person whose driving privileges were revoked for a conviction under West Virginia Code §17C-5-2 prior to its reenactment in 1981 may request in writing to have such person's driving privileges restored. In addition to filing proof of financial responsibility as required by the West Virginia Code §17D-4-1 et seq., any person convicted for a subsequent offense under West Virginia Code §17C-5-2 within a period of five (5) years must also, in light of the former provisions of West Virginia Code §17C-5-2 obtain and file with the written request letters from five persons in the applicant's community. Each of these letters must state that the writer has known the applicant personally for more than five years; that the applicant has not driven a motor vehicle during the period of revocation; that in the writer's opinion the applicant is not likely to repeat the offense for which the license was revoked; that the public safety does not require that the applicant's license be revoked any longer; and that the applicant has not, to the knowledge of the writer, been addicted to the use of intoxicating

beverages or narcotic drugs or used the same during the preceding five years. The Commissioner shall hold all hearings upon the written request for restoration of driving privileges in accordance with the provisions of Division of Motor Vehicles Rule 91CSR1.3.

§91-5-6. Suspending a West Virginia Resident's License Upon Conviction in Another State or jurisdiction.

6.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17B-3-3 authorizes the Commissioner to suspend a resident's license upon conviction for a traffic offense in another jurisdiction.

6.2 Procedures - The Division shall suspend or revoke the driving privileges of any resident of this state upon receiving notice of conviction for an traffic offense in another jurisdiction, which if committed in this state, would be grounds for the mandatory suspension or revocation of driving privileges.

If the records of the Division disclose that a conviction is the second or subsequent conviction for the same offense in this or any other jurisdiction, the division shall suspend or revoke the resident's driving privileges in the same manner as if the traffic offense had occurred in this State.

The Division will restore driving privileges only after the licensee has complied with all the provisions of the West Virginia Code and Administrative Regulations in the same manner that would be required if the licensee had been convicted in this State.

§91-5-7. The Point System (Revised 1988, 1998)

7.1 Records - West Virginia Code §17B-2-14 requires that records be kept in order that an individual record of each licensee showing the convictions of such licensee be readily ascertainable and available for consideration by the Division upon any application for renewal of license "and at other suitable times" consistent with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-6(3). Accordingly, a record keeping system to be known as the Point System and to be administered by the Driver Improvement Section is established in this rule.

7.2 Offenses - Point Total - When any licensee of the State of West Virginia is convicted in the State of West Virginia or, pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-3, in any other jurisdiction, of any of the following offenses involving a motor vehicle, which conviction has become final, the Division will enter the offense and the point total shown opposite such offense on the licensee's driver record maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

| <u>Statute Violated</u>   | <u>General Description of Offenses</u>   | <u>Point Value</u> |
|---|--|--------------------|
| §17C-5-3,<br>§17C-18-1  | Reckless Driving   | 6                  |
| §17C-4-2,<br>§17C-18-1<br>§17C-6-1  | Hit and run involving property damage only<br><br>Speeding in school zone  | 6<br><br>6         |
| §17C-12-7,<br>§17C-18-1   | Passing stopped school bus   | 6                  |
| §17C-3-4,<br>§17C-12-5,<br>§17C-18-1  | Failure to obey stop signs and other traffic signs and control devices, except failure to obey traffic control signals   | 3                  |
| §17C-3-5,<br>§17C-3-7,<br>§17C-18-1   | Failure to obey traffic control signals or traffic light signals   | 3                  |
| §17C-7-2,<br>§17C-7-6,<br>§17C-18-1   | Driving to left side of roadway  | 3                  |
| §17C-6-1,<br>§17C-18-1  | Driving too fast for conditions, failure to keep vehicle under control or hazardous driving  | 3                  |
| §17C-6-1,<br>§17C-6-4,<br>§17C-18-1   | Speeding in violation of specified or established limits where the speed was in excess of 75 m.p.h., except on highways where established speed limit is 65 m.p.h. and conviction was in excess of 80 m.p.h. | 6                  |
| §17C-6-1,<br>§17C-6-4,<br>§17C-18-1   | Speeding in violation of specified or established limits where the speed was not in excess of 75 m.p.h.  | 3                  |
| §17C-9-1,<br>§17C-9-2,<br>§17C-9-3,<br>§17C-9-4,<br>§17C-9-5,<br>§17C-10-2, | Failure of driver to yield right of way  | 3                  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| §17C-12-6,<br>§17C-18-1                          |   |   |
| §17C-8-2,<br>§17C-8-3,<br>§17C-8-4,<br>§17C-18-1 | Improper right-hand and left-hand turns   | 2 |
| §17C-7-3,<br>§17C-18-1                           | Failure of driver of overtaking vehicle to give audible signal, or failure to pass to the left at a safe distance, or driving to the right before safely clear of the overtaken vehicle, or failure of the driver of overtaken vehicle to give way to the right, or driver of overtaken vehicle increasing speed before being completely passed by the overtaking vehicle | 3 |
| §17C-7-5<br>§17C-18-1                            | Passing in face of oncoming traffic   | 3 |
| §17C-7-7,<br>§17C-18-1                           | Passing in no-passing zone  | 3 |
| §17C-12-1  | <u>Failure to obey signal indicating approaching train</u>  | 3 |
| §17C-15-1,<br>§17C-15-2,<br>§17C-18-1            | Operation of vehicle without lighted lamps or lights when required to be lighted  | 2 |
| §17C-7-10,<br>§17C-18-1                          | Following too closely   | 2 |
| §17C-14-5,<br>§17C-18-1                          | Operation of a vehicle with more than three persons in the front seat   | 2 |
| §17C-14-2,<br>§17C-18-1                          | Improper backing  | 2 |
| §17C-7-8,<br>§17C-18-1                           | Driving wrong way on one-way street, highway or roadway   | 3 |
| §17C-8-6,<br>§17C-8-8,<br>§17C-8-9,              | Improper turning movements, or improper signals, or no signals  | 2 |

§17C-8-10,  
§17C-18-1

17C All other moving violations 2  
(The above statutory references are to Chapters, Articles and Sections of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended)

7.3 Traffic Convictions With No Point Value - The abstracts of traffic convictions outlined below are not considered a moving violation and consequently have no point value in the administration of the Driver Improvement Program:

7.3.a. Convictions for operating vehicles on the highways of this or any other state with defective or improper equipment.

7.3.b. Convictions for operating vehicles on the highways of this or any other state in violation of the weight, height, length and width provisions of West Virginia Code.

7.3.c. Convictions for operating a vehicle on the highways of this or any other state with improper registration.

7.3.d. Convictions for operating a vehicle on the highways of this or any other state with an expired vehicle inspection decal or certificate.

7.3.e. Convictions for operating a vehicle on a controlled access highway of this or any other state at a speed of less than ten miles per hour above the speed limit in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17C-19-2.

7.4 Traffic Accidents Not Involving Convictions - Although West Virginia Code §17B-2-14 provides that records be kept on traffic accidents, the Division will not assign points for any traffic accident not involving a conviction; however, when sufficient points have been accumulated to result in a review of a driver's record as outlined in Sec. 7.12 of this rule, the Division may consider records on file in the Division of any accident not involving a conviction.

7.5 Traffic Convictions - The Division will note the appropriate number of points indicated in Section 7.2 of this rule on the driver record of any licensee convicted of any of the above offenses in West Virginia Circuit, Magistrate or Municipal Court. Consistent with the provisions in West Virginia Code §17B-3-3 the Division shall charge any licensee of the State of West Virginia convicted in any other state, municipality therein or in the District of Columbia of any offense described in section 7.2 of this rule in violation of any statute or ordinance of such other state, municipality or District of Columbia with the appropriate number of points shown in Section 7.2 of this rule opposite the description of the offense.

7.6 Forfeiture of Bail Or Deposited Collateral - Consistent with the provisions of

West Virginia Code §17B-3-4 requiring the furnishing to the Division of certified abstracts of judgments on convictions, for the purposes of the point system, a forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure a licensee's appearance in court, which forfeiture has not been vacated, is equivalent to a conviction.

7.7 Points assigned for Same Occurrence - When a licensee is convicted of two or more offenses arising out of the same occurrence, the Division will assign points for only one such offense. When there is a difference in the point values of the offenses, the Division will assign the greater point value.

7.8 Revocations - West Virginia Code §17B-3-5 provides that certain convictions result in an automatic revocation, as opposed to suspension, of the driver's license of the person so convicted. These convictions are recorded on the licensee's driver record with no assignment of points. Reckless driving convictions are assessed points unless three convictions occur within a period of twenty-four months. In these cases, the licensee is subject to the mandatory revocation in accordance with West Virginia Code §17B-3-5(5). When any person is convicted in the State of West Virginia for an offense for which no point value is assigned but for which a certified abstract of judgment on such conviction is required and furnished to the Division under the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-4 the Division shall note the conviction, without point value, on the driver record of the licensee.

7.9 Driver Improvement Questionnaire Notice- The Division shall request notify any licensee whose record shows a total of ~~nine (9)~~ six (6) to ~~eleven (11)~~ eight (8) points to complete a Driver Improvement Questionnaire: that the licensee has accumulated a number of traffic convictions over a short period of time and that the licensee should be aware of the consequences of additional traffic law violations.

7.10 Accumulation of Twelve or More Points - will result in the Division undertaking a review of the licensee's driver record. The Division shall base this review on a consideration of all facts and circumstances including the driver record, police reports, accident reports, and convictions for which no point values were recorded as well as any other information pertaining to the licensee on file with the Division. After an evaluation of the licensee's driver record, the Division may:

7.10.a. advise the licensee that continued violation of traffic laws will result in suspension of the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle, or

7.10.b. place the licensee on probation for a period not to exceed one (1) year under such conditions as the Division feels is necessary, or

7.10.c. suspend and/or place on probation the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a combined period not to exceed one (1) year.

If the Division determines that some action is to be taken, it shall be because, as

specified in West Virginia Code §17B-3-6, the Division has determined that the licensee has been convicted with such frequency of serious offenses against traffic regulations governing the movement of motor vehicles as to indicate a disrespect for traffic laws and a disregard for the safety of other persons on the highways or is a habitually reckless or negligent driver of a motor vehicle.

7.11 Length Of Time Points Maintained On Driving Record - The Division shall maintain the total number of points, if any, accumulated by any licensee on the licensee's driver record for a period of two years from the date of the conviction. Thereafter, the Division shall eliminate the points but the record of convictions shall remain so that if at any future time sufficient points are accumulated to cause the Division to review the licensee's driver record, the Division may consider such convictions in determining the action, if any, to be taken following such review. The Division shall eliminate the point totals accumulated by any licensee who, after review, is placed on probation or whose license is suspended following review, or whose license is placed or remains on probation following a hearing or whose license is or remains suspended following a hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.13 of this rule, at the expiration of the suspension and/or probation period. However, the record of convictions shall remain so that if at any future time sufficient points are accumulated to cause the Division to review the licensee's driver record, the Division may consider such convictions in determining any action which may be taken.

7.12 Effective Starting Time For Period of Suspension - The suspension of any driver's license under the Driver Improvement Program is effective ten days from the mailing of the notice of suspension. The Division shall calculate eligibility for reinstatement in accordance with Administrative Rule 91CSR16, Eligibility for Reinstatement Following Suspension or Revocation.

7.13 Hearings - In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-6, any licensee whose license is suspended or placed on probation is entitled to a hearing. The licensee shall request any such hearing in accordance with the provisions of Administrative Rule 91CSR1, Administrative Due Process, and the Division shall conduct the hearing as provided in the rule. When a hearing is requested, the Division shall give the licensee notice of the time and place of hearing. The Division shall hold the hearing as early as practical. The Commissioner may postpone or continue any hearing on his or her own motion or upon the application of the licensee for good cause shown. The notice of hearing shall advise the licensee of the matters to be considered at such hearing. Upon such hearing the Division shall either rescind its order of suspension or probation or affirm the suspension or probation of such license. If the suspension is rescinded, but the Division feels that some lesser action is appropriate, the Division may place the licensee on probation under conditions established by the Division for a period not to exceed one year from the date of rescission of the suspension.

7.14 Judicial Review - Any licensee whose driver's license is, or remains, suspended after a hearing held in accordance with the provisions of this Section or Rule 91CSR1, or who

after such a hearing is placed, or remains, on probation under conditions established by the Division, is entitled to seek judicial review in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-4 and any other remedies provided by law for the review of the action taken by the Division.

7.15 Applying For Reinstatement, Or Relief Of Probation - Any licensee whose license is suspended, or who is placed on probation may at any time during the period of suspension, or probation request reinstatement of the suspended license, or to be relieved from such probation.

Upon receipt of any request, the Division may make any investigation it considers appropriate and may amend the previous action.

§91-5-8. Driver Improvement Course (Revised 1998)

8.1 Procedures - Driver Improvement courses are conducted at various times and locations throughout the State. The Division of Motor Vehicles must approve the course, which is not to exceed fifteen hours. The approved organization must certify the instructors conducting these courses.

8.2 Points To Be Deducted Upon Successful Completion - Attendance at any Driver Improvement course is voluntary on the part of the licensee however, on successful completion of a course, not to exceed fifteen hours, the Division will deduct three points from the total points shown on the driver record of the licensee. The Division will deduct points for completing a course once during any five year period, and only if the licensee has eleven (11) points or less, and has no outstanding violations which would place the licensee over the eleven (11) point level. The Division will not deduct points from any licensee's record when the licensee has attended and received a certificate from a clinic prior to accumulating any points on his or her driver record.

8.3 Professional Truck Driver Course - In order for the Division to deduct points that have been assessed against a licensee who holds a valid commercial driver's license, the licensee must successfully complete the Professional Truck Driver Course. All requirements outlined in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 of this rule apply to the Professional Truck Driver Course.

8.4 The licensee must present a certificate from the instructor of the course to the Division of Motor Vehicles, showing that the course has been completed by the licensee before the Division removes the points from the record.

8.5 Although the Division will subtract three points from the driver record, the record of all convictions involving motor vehicles will remain so that if at any future time sufficient points are accumulated to cause the Division to require another review, the Division may consider the conviction for which the points were eliminated along with all other convictions of record in the Division in determining the action, if any, the Division will take following such review.

~~8.3 Professional Truck Driver Course - In order for the Division to deduct points that have been assessed against a licensee who holds a valid commercial driver's license, the licensee must successfully complete the Professional Truck Driver Course. All requirements outlined in Sections 8.1 and 8.2 of this rule apply to the Professional Truck Driver Course.~~

§91-5-9. Procedures For Medical And Driving Re-Examination Of Licensed Drivers

9.1 Statutory Provisions - In accordance with West Virginia Code §17B-3-7, the Division of Motor Vehicles may require a re-examination of a licensed driver. The Division, having good cause to believe that a licensed driver is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, may upon written notice of at least five days require the licensee to submit to a vision, written and driving examination by the ~~Division of Public Safety~~ The State Police. Upon the conclusion of the examination, the Division shall take action as may be appropriate and may suspend or revoke the license of such person or may issue a license subject to restrictions as provided under West Virginia Code §17B-2-10. Refusal or neglect of the licensee to submit to the examination is grounds for suspension or revocation of the license.

9.2 ~~Procedures~~ - The Division of Motor Vehicles shall mail the notice of re-examination to the licensee's most recent driver license address on file with the Division and shall be mailed by certified or registered letter. The notice shall contain the time and place designated for the re-examination and, also, shall contain a brief explanation that a suspension or revocation may be imposed for failure to appear and submit to the re-examination as directed by the notice.

9.3 The re-examination administered by the ~~Division of Public Safety~~ State Police consists of three parts.

9.3.a. The first part covering physical qualifications consists of a vision test and color blindness test and an inquiry into any physical disability. In addition to the physical qualifications, the examining officer conducts a personal interview with the licensee.

9.3.b. The second part of the re-examination consists of a written test composed of questions of equal value. A minimum of 70% of the questions covering motor vehicles' laws, rules of the road, highway warnings, traffic signs and signaling devices correctly answered is required to pass the re-examination. The examiner may administer the written test verbally if the licensee is determined by the examiner to be illiterate. The reference document for the material on the test is the official Driver's Handbook as prescribed by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

9.3.c. The third part of the re-examination is the driving test that is given to new applicants applying for driver's licenses in this state. A passing score shall be the same as required for new applicants. The examiner shall not give the driving test if the licensee fails to meet the minimum physical standards as set forth by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

9.4. If the licensee fails the re-examination, the Division shall suspend the license and notify the licensee of the suspension. The Division shall send the notice by certified or registered mail and the suspension is effective four days after the date of the suspension order.

9.5 The licensee is not eligible for a second re-examination until the expiration of thirty days from the date the license was surrendered to the Division. The licensee must make a request, by letter or in person, to the Division of Motor Vehicles, for the opportunity to take subsequent re-examinations.

9.6. If a licensee fails a second re-examination, the licensee is not eligible for a re-examination until sixty days have expired from the date of the previous re-examination. If a licensee fails a third re-examination, the licensee is not eligible for the fourth re-examination until six months have elapsed. Failure of four consecutive re-examinations is grounds for permanent revocation and the licensee will not be eligible for additional testing until one year from the last re-examination date.

9.7. If the licensee fails to pass the re-examination because of failure to meet the visual qualifications, the Division shall not grant a further examination until adequate evidence of visual improvement has been submitted.

9.8 Upon showing of good cause the Division may request any licensee to submit a medical report of a recent medical examination. The licensee must submit the report on forms prescribed by the Division of Motor Vehicles in accordance with Section 3 of this rule. After review of the submitted medical report, the Division shall determine whether or not the license should be suspended in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-7.

9.9 If the driver's license is suspended because of a physical condition and a satisfactory medical report is subsequently submitted, the Division may require the licensee to submit to a re-examination of the licensee's driving ability before the driver's license is reinstated.

9.10 Refusal or neglect of the licensee to submit to a driver re-examination or physical examination, or both, requested in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-7, is grounds for suspension or revocation of the driver's license.

§91-5-10 Suspension or Revocation Following Notice of Returned Check(Revised 1998)

10.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17A-2-16 authorizes the Division to suspend or revoke any and all registration cards, permits, driver's licenses and registration plates issued to the person, firm or corporation by whom or on whose account any required fees shall have been determined to remain unpaid after such reasonable notice and demand. West Virginia Code §17A-2-23 authorizes the Division to apply a penalty fee in addition to any other penalty imposed by the West Virginia Code. In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-3-14, the Division shall suspend any registration paid for by a check which is returned for

insufficient funds without prior notice. The notice and demand procedures in these rules do not apply to vehicle registration suspensions.

10.2 Determination of Unpaid Fee or Tax - Upon receipt of any check returned to the Division unpaid for any reason the Division shall consider the required fee unpaid. If after reasonable notice the fee or tax remains unpaid, the Division shall suspend or revoke the license or registration paid for with such check.

10.3 Reasonable Notice and Demand - Upon the Division's receipt of a check or checks which are returned unpaid for any reason by the check maker's financial institution, the Division shall mail a proposed notice of suspension or revocation to the maker of the check and the licensee or registrant, if different from the check maker. The notice of proposed suspension or revocation shall give the check maker ten (10) days to redeem the face amount of the check and pay any penalty fees.

10.4 Suspension or Revocation - If after ten (10) days, the account remains unpaid, the proposed suspension or revocation of licenses or registrations is effective. The licensee or registrant has ten (10) days to surrender the suspended or revoked licenses or registrations to the Division.

10.5 Failure to Surrender Documents - In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-9-7 and §17B-3-9, the Division shall notify the Superintendent of ~~Public Safety~~ the State Police to secure possession of any ~~license or registration plate or other document~~ which the licensee has failed to surrender and return them to the Division.

10.6 Administrative Hearing - Upon the written request of the licensee or registration within ten (10) days of the date of mailing of the notice of proposed suspension, or revocation the Commissioner will afford the licensee or registrant the opportunity for an administrative hearing. The scope of the hearing is limited to whether or not the required fees in question have been paid to the Division. The Commissioner may post pone or continue any hearing on his own motion or upon the application of the licensee for good cause shown.

10.7 Penalty and Reinstatement Fee - The provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-2-23 provide for a penalty fee for any returned checks. The provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-9-7 and §17B-3-9 provide for a reinstatement fee for suspended or revoked licenses and registrations. The provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-9-7 and §17B-3-9 also provide for an additional serve order fee if the ~~Division of Public Safety~~ State Police is ordered to secure the suspended or revoked licenses or registrations.

10.8 Payment - Payment of all fees required under the provisions of these rules shall be by certified check, money order or cash.

§91-5-11 Suspension Under Nonresident Violator Compact(Revised 1998)

11.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17B-1C-1 authorizes this State's entry into the Nonresident Violator Compact. In accordance with these provisions each compact member state agrees to allow motorists to accept a traffic citation for certain violations and proceed without delay and without the, posting of bond or payment of fine regardless of whether the motorist is a resident of the jurisdiction in which the citation was issued.

11.2 Failure to Comply - Under the provisions of the Nonresident Violator Compact, the Division is required to suspend the operating privileges of its drivers who fail to comply with the terms of certain citations issued by other compact states.

11.3 Notification - When another state notifies the Division of noncompliance with a traffic citation, the Division shall send the licensee a proposed order of suspension by certified mail return receipt requested. The Division must receive proof of compliance with the terms of the citation within forty-five (45) days.

11.4. Proof of Compliance with the Terms of the Citation - Proof of compliance means certification from the out of state court having jurisdiction that the fine and court costs have been fully satisfied or a certification from the court showing that the citation was dismissed, or the licensee adjudicated not guilty. Proof of compliance does not mean personal representation, or copies of money orders, personal checks, or certified checks.

11.5 Failure to Respond - If the Division does not receive proof of compliance within the required forty-five (45) days, it shall suspend the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle until such time as proof of compliance with the terms of the citation is received. ~~If the licensee does not surrender the license to the Division of Motor Vehicle within ten (10) days of the effective date of suspension, the Division shall order the Division of Public Safety to secure the license in accordance with West Virginia Code §17B-3-9.~~

11.6 Administrative hearing - Upon the written request of the licensee within ten(10) days of receipt of the proposed order of suspension, the Commissioner will afford the licensee the opportunity for an administrative hearing. The scope of the hearing is whether or not the person having a license suspended is the person to whom the citation was issued.

11.7 Reinstatement - Subsequent to the suspension of driving privileges for failure to comply with the terms of a citation from a compact member state, penalty fees under the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-9 apply. Payment of these fees, in addition to compliance with the terms of the citation in accordance with Section 11.4 of these rules to the satisfaction of the out of state court is required prior to reinstatement of a suspended driver's license.

91-5-12 Suspension or Denial of License under Student Attendance Law (1991)(Revised 1998)

12.1 Statutory Provisions - In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-6(10) and §18-8-11, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall deny a driver's license or instruction permit or suspend a driver's license previously issued to any person under the age of eighteen who cannot present:

12.1.a. A certificate of graduation issued to the person from a secondary high school or a general education development certificate.

12.1.b. Documents showing that the person is enrolled in and making satisfactory progress towards a high school diploma or a general education development certificate.

12.1.c. Certification from the attendance director or chief administrator of the county that the person is excused from the requirements of West Virginia Code §18-8-11.

12.1.d. Certification of enrollment in an institution of higher education as a full time student in this state or any other state.

12.2 Notification - Upon notification that a person under the age of eighteen years has failed to comply with West Virginia Code §18-8-11, the Division of Motor Vehicles will check to determine if the person is licensed. If the person is licensed, the Division shall send a notice of suspension by certified mail to the licensee's address of record, return receipt requested. The notice of suspension shall inform the licensee that his or her license will be suspended thirty (30) days after the date upon which the letter was mailed unless the licensee can show documentation of compliance with West Virginia Code §18-8-11 prior to the date of suspension. The notice shall also advise the licensee that he or she is entitled to a hearing before the county superintendent of schools or his designated, or before the appropriate private school official concerning whether or not the licensee's withdrawal from school was due to circumstances beyond the control of the licensee, making the licensee eligible for a waiver from the provisions of West Virginia Code §18-8-11.

12.3 Administrative Hearing - Upon written request of the licensee within ten (10) days of receipt of the notice of suspension, the Commissioner will afford the licensee the opportunity for an administrative hearing. The scope of the hearing pursuant to Means v. Sidiropolis 401 S.E.2D Page 447 (W. Va. 1990) is to determined if there is a question of improper identity, incorrect age or some other bookkeeping error.

12.4 Reinstatement - The Division shall reinstate any license which has been suspended under West Virginia Code §17B-3-6, pursuant to West Virginia Code §18-8-11, after the licensee pays all applicable fees and shows that he or she has:

12.4.a. Reached the age of eighteen,

12.4.b. A certificate of graduation issued to the person from a secondary high school or general education development certificate,

12.4.c. Documents showing that the person is enrolled in and making satisfactory progress towards a high school diploma or a general education development certificate, or

12.4.d. Certification from the attendance director or chief administrator of the county that the person is excused from the requirements of West Virginia Code §18-8-11.

12.5 Issuance of a license to applicants under eighteen - Any applicant for a driver's license or learner's permit who is under the age of eighteen years shall provide documentation of compliance with West Virginia Code §18-8-11 to the Division of Motor Vehicles in order to obtain a license or permit. Documentation includes verification of enrollment from the public or private school in the form of written notice from the head of the school. During those months when school is not in session, a copy of the licensee's latest report card is proof of compliance if such report card was the last one issued for the previous school year.

§91-5-13 Suspension Under Resident Violator Program (1991)(Revised 1998)

13.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17B-3-3(a) and (b) authorizes requires the Division to suspend the driver's license of any person upon receipt of notification from a Circuit, Magistrate or Municipal Court of this State that the licensee has either failed to appear in court when charged with a motor vehicle violation originating from Chapters ~~17A,~~ 17B, 17C, 17D or 17E of the West Virginia Code or has failed to pay all fines assessed as a result of being convicted of the violation.

13.2 Notification - Upon notification of noncompliance with the terms of the citation from a Circuit, Magistrate or Municipal Court, the Division shall send the licensee an order of suspension to the address of record by certified mail, return receipt requested. The order of suspension shall indicate that the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle is suspended until proof of compliance is shown and all applicable fees are paid.

13.3 Proof of Compliance - Proof of compliance means certification from the court in the form of a receipt which shows that the fine and court costs have been satisfied, or a letter from the magistrate or municipal court which indicates that the requirements of the citation have been met. Proof of compliance does not mean personal representation, copies of money orders, personal checks, or certified checks.

13.4 Failure to Respond - If the Division does not receive proof of compliance, the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle will remain suspended until such time as proof of compliance with the terms of the citation is received from the licensee, and the appropriate fees are paid. ~~If the licensee does not surrender the license to the Division within ten (10) days of the effective date of suspension, the Division shall order the Division of Public Safety to secure such~~

~~license in accordance with West Virginia Code §17B-3-9.~~

13.5 Administrative Hearing - Upon the written request of the licensee within ten (10) days of receipt of the proposed order of suspension, the Commissioner will afford the licensee the opportunity for an administrative hearing. The scope of the hearing is whether or not the person having a license suspended is the same person to whom the citation was issued.

13.6 Reinstatement - Subsequent to the suspension of a driver's license for failure to comply with the terms of the citation, penalty fees under the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-9 apply. The licensee must pay these fees, in addition to providing proof of compliance with the citation prior to reinstatement of a suspended driver's license.

§91-5-14 Driving Under the Influence; Administrative Hearings (Effective 1984) (Revised 1991, 1998)

14.1 Application and Enforcement

14.1.a. Application - This section applies to hearings requested by persons whose license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been revoked pursuant to an offense described in West Virginia §17C-5-1 et seq. and §17C-5A-1 et seq.

14.1.b. Enforcement - Enforcement of these legislative rules is vested with the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles or the Commissioner's lawful designee.

14.2 Definitions - The following definitions apply in the interpretation and enforcement of this section.

14.2.a. Arresting Officer - Means any law enforcement officer as described in West Virginia Code §17C-5-4.

14.2.b. Code - Means the Code of West Virginia of 1931, as amended.

14.2.c. Commissioner - Means the executive officer of the Division of Motor Vehicles appointed by the Governor pursuant to West Virginia Code §17A-2-2, or the Commissioner's lawful designee.

14.2.d. Hearing - Means the administrative procedures conducted by the Commissioner pursuant to West Virginia Code §17C-5A-1 et seq. and §29A-5-1 et seq. and this section as applied to contested cases arising out of the enforcement of administrative revocations imposed under the provisions of West Virginia Code 17C-5A-1 et seq.

14.2.e. Licensee - Means any person licensed, or required to be licensed by West Virginia or any other jurisdiction to operate a motor vehicle on the roads or highways of this

State.

#### 14.3. Challenge of the Secondary Chemical Test

14.3.a. Notification - Any licensee requesting a hearing under the provisions of West Virginia Code §17C-5A-2 and who intends to challenge the results of any secondary chemical test of blood, breath or urine, or intends to cross-examine the individual or individuals who administered the test or performed the chemical analysis, shall notify the Commissioner of his or her intent. The notification must be submitted in writing, either in person or by mail to the Commissioner in Charleston, West Virginia, at least ten days prior to the hearing date.

14.3.b. Admissibility - If a licensee fails to comply with the notice requirements of Section 14.3.a of this rule means that the results of the secondary test, if any, will be admissible as though the licensee and the Commissioner had stipulated the admissibility of the results of the test.

14.3.c. Exceptions - The Commissioner shall not invoke the provisions of Section 14.3.b of this rule in the case of a licensee who is not represented by counsel unless the communication from the Commissioner to the licensee establishing a time and place for hearing also informed the person of the consequences of his failure to timely notify the Commissioner pursuant to Section 14.3.a of this rule.

#### 14.4 Request for Hearing

14.4.a. Initial Notice of Procedures - The order of revocation shall also include a:

1. Statement of the issues involved. In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17C-5A-1a upon receipt of a notice of conviction the only issue the Commissioner is to consider if a hearing is requested is whether or not the person named in the order of revocation is the same person named in the transcript of the conviction.

2. Statement that the licensee's request for hearing must be made as prescribed in Section 14.4.2 of this rule.

3. Statement that the licensee must notify the Commissioner if there is an intent to challenge the results or operation of the secondary chemical test as prescribed in Section 14.3.a of this rule.

4. Statement of the costs associated with the hearing which the licensee may incur, as prescribed in 14.7 of this rule.

14.4.b. Request For Hearing - A licensee must submit a request for hearing in

writing to the Commissioner in Charleston, West Virginia, either in person or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested. The licensee must make the request within ten days from the date on which the order of revocation's mail receipt was signed. However, in cases where the registered or certified mail is not signed for, the provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-2-19 apply. If the licensee requesting the hearing intends to challenge the results or operation of the secondary chemical test, the licensee must notify the Commissioner of such action as prescribed in Section 14.3 of this rule.

14.4.c. Notice of Hearing - The Commissioner shall send the notice of hearing to the licensee requesting the hearing by registered mail or certified mail, return receipt requested.

The notice shall contain a:

1. Statement of the date, time, and location of the hearing.
2. Statement of the issues involved.
3. Statement as to the consequences of failing to appear at the prescribed date, time and place of the hearing.
4. Statement as to the consequences of failing to timely notify the Commissioner of the licensee's intention to challenge the results or operation of the secondary chemical test pursuant to the notice requirements of Section 14.3 of this rule.

14.4.d. Failure of Licensee Requesting Hearing to Appear - The failure of a licensee requesting a hearing to appear without first obtaining a continuance pursuant to Sections 14.4.f or 14.4.g of this rule shall result in an automatic reinstatement of the revocation and assessment of the costs outlined in Section 14.7 of this rule.

14.4.e. Failure of Arresting Officer to Appear - The failure of the arresting officer to appear without first obtaining a continuance pursuant to Sections 14.4.f or 14.4.g of this rule shall result in an immediate dismissal of the administrative revocation imposed under the provisions of West Virginia Code §17C-5A-1 et seq. Provided, that if the arresting officer encounters an emergency situation requiring his or her services en route to a hearing, the hearing officer shall not dismiss the pending administrative revocation if the arresting officer or his or her agency notifies the hearing examiner no later than 15 minutes after the scheduled start of the hearing. The hearing examiner upon notification, shall either delay the start of the hearing or postpone the hearing.

14.4.f. Request for Continuance - the arresting officer or the licensee requesting a hearing may be granted a continuance of a scheduled hearing. The request for continuance shall be in writing, and must be received by the ~~Director of Safety and Enforcement~~ Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles at least five days prior to the scheduled hearing date. The

Commissioner will grant the requests if good cause is shown. Good cause shall include such reasons as serious illness, medical appointments, court appearances, or religious holidays of either party. In no case may the Commissioner grant either party more than two continuances except as provided in Section 14.4.g of this rule.

14.4.g. Continuance on the Motion of the Commissioner - The Commissioner may postpone or continue a hearing on his or her own motion. The motion shall be for good cause including, but not limited to docket management, availability of hearing examiners or other essential personnel, or mechanical failure of essential equipment, ie recording equipment, file storage equipment etc. The Commissioner may also grant a continuance on less than five days notice to either party in the circumstances of unexpected personal emergencies of the attorney, licensee, arresting officer or key witnesses. A continuance for a personal emergency is not a continuance under the provisions of Section 14.4.f of this rule.

#### 14.5. Hearing Procedures

14.5.a. Representatives - A licensee requesting a hearing as well as the arresting officer may be represented by an attorney, licensed to practice law in the United States.

14.5.b. Evidence - the provisions of West Virginia Code §29A-5-2 apply to questions concerning evidence.

14.5.c. Hearing Officer - The hearing officer has the powers enumerated in West Virginia Code §29A-5-1 as well as those granted in these legislative rules.

#### 14.5.d. Presentation of Evidence and Cross Examination -

1. The arresting officer carries the burden of proof and therefore, has the initial opportunity to present evidence.

2. The licensee requesting the hearing has the right to cross examine the arresting officer or any additional witness presented by the arresting officer, unless such cross examination is precluded by the Code or these this Legislative Rules Rule.

3. Following the submission of evidence and cross examination, if any, of the arresting officer or witnesses presented by the arresting officer, the hearing examiner shall give the licensee requesting the hearing an opportunity to present evidence.

4. The arresting officer has the right to cross examine any person who gives testimony.

5. Following the presentation of all evidence, each party has the right to offer closing arguments.

14.5.a. Continuation and Adjournment - The hearing examiner may continue a hearing in progress - from one day to another or adjourn to a later date.

#### 14.6 Transcription of Reported Testimony and Evidence

14.6.a. Content of Transcript - All testimony, evidence, arguments, and rulings on the admissibility of testimony and evidence shall be reported by stenographic notes and characters or by mechanized means.

14.6.b. Request for Transcript - Upon written request, the Commissioner shall have all materials transcribed and a copy furnished to the licensee requesting the hearing at his or her own expense. The Commissioner shall collect a fee of One Dollar and Fifty Cents for each page transcribed.

#### 14.7 Assessment of Costs

14.7.a. Docket Fee - The Commissioner shall assess a docket fee of Ten Dollars against the licensee requesting a hearing.

14.7.b. Witness Fees - The Commissioner shall assess a fee of Fifteen Dollars per witness and Fifteen Cents per mile for each mile necessarily traveled to and from the place of the hearing against the licensee requesting the hearing for each witness.

14.7.c. Payment of Fees - The Commissioner shall assess any licensee filing a request for a hearing who fails to have the Commissioner's order of revocation rescinded or modified to a lesser period of revocation the fees prescribed in Section 14.7.a or 14.7.b of this rule. Such licensee must pay all applicable fees before the Commissioner can complete reinstatement of a license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle.

#### 14.8 Subpoenas

In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17C-5A-2 and §17A-2-18 which authorize the Commissioner to issue subpoenas or subpoenas duces tecum the Commissioner has the authority to issue subpoenas or subpoenas duces tecum pursuant to West Virginia Code §29A-5-1b.

#### 14.9 Orders or Decisions

14.9.a. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law - The Commissioner shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law pursuant to West Virginia Code §17C-5A-1 et seq. and §29A-5-1 et seq.

14.9.b. Final Order - The Commissioner shall make and enter every final order

pursuant to West Virginia Code §17C-5A-1 et seq. and §29A-5-1 et seq.

§91-5-15. Suspending or Restricting a Licensee for Failure to Maintain Court Ordered Child Support Payments.(New 1998)

15.1. Statutory Provisions- In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §48A-5a et seq. and §17B-3-6(a), the Division is required to suspend or restrict the driving privileges of any person upon notification from a Circuit Court of this state that the person has failed to pay overdue child support or comply with subpoenas or warrants relating to paternity or child support proceedings. The provisions of West Virginia Code §48-5A-5© prohibits the Division from issuing or renewing a driver's license to any person who fails to certify that he or she does not have a child support obligation or that he or she is not more than six months in arrearage, and is not the subject of a child support related subpoena or warrant. This procedure is implemented to conform to the mandates of the federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996.

15.2. Types of Action Against License-The Division, in accordance with the provisions of §48A-5a et seq, will take the following action against an applicant or licensee.

15.2.a. Denial or Nonrenewal- an applicant who fails to certify that he or she does not have a child support obligation, that any obligation is not more than six months in arrearage, and is not the subject of a child support related subpoena or warrant will not be issued a driver's license. The Division shall notify the applicant by regular mail.

15.2.b. Suspension- In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-6(10),the Division shall suspend a licensee upon receipt of:

1. A Court order suspending the license, or
2. Certification from the Child Support Enforcement Division that the licensee has failed to comply with a new or modified Court order that stayed the suspension.

15.2.c. Restriction- In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §48-5A-5(a) and 17B-2-10(b), the Division shall upon receipt of the Court's order restricting the licensee, restrict the licensee to the operation of a motor vehicle for transportation to and from work, work related driving, or to and from a court approved education or training program subject to the following:

1. Within ten (10) days of the effective date of the order of restriction of restriction of driving privileges, the licensee shall surrender his or her current license to the

Division for issuance of a specially marked restricted license. For the purposes of this rule, the license is issued as a duplicate license under the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-2-11. The provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-9 not requiring surrender of license apply only when a driver's license is suspended or revoked.

2. Failure to surrender the current license and pay the required duplicate license fee will result in the suspension of the driver's license until proof of compliance with the child support order is received and the reinstatement fees are paid as provided in section 15.7 of this rule.

3. Violation of the terms of the restricted license shall result in the immediate suspension of the driver's license as provided in section 5.6 of this rule.

4. Reinstatement of full driving privileges shall be as provided in section 5.7 of this rule.

15.3. Notification- The Division shall send the licensee an order of nonrenewal, suspension or restriction of driving privileges upon notice from a Circuit Court ordering suspension or restriction of driving privileges. The Division will send the order to the licensee's address of record by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested.

15.4. Term of Denial, Nonrenewal, Suspension or Restriction- In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §48-5A-5(b), the license action ordered by the Court shall continue until the Child Support Enforcement Division provides the Division with either a Court order withdrawing the license action or certification that the licensee is in compliance with the court order for the payment of current child support and arrearage.

15.5. Administrative Appeal- A licensee who believes that the license suspension order has been directed to the licensee in error may request an hearing. The licensee must submit the request for a hearing in writing to the Commissioner in person or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested. The licensee must submit the request within ten (10) days from which the order of suspension or restriction order from the Division was received. The licensee must make a preliminary showing in his or her request, that a possibility exists that he or she is not the person named in the Court order before the request for hearing is granted. In cases where the certified or registered mail is not signed for, the provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-2-19 apply for the purpose of determining if a hearing request is timely.

In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §48A-5A-5(a), the Division does not have jurisdiction to modify, remand, reverse or stay a court order to take action against a license. Therefore, the scope of any administrative appeal shall be limited to the sole purpose for the licensee to present evidence that he or she is not the person named in the Court Order.

15.6. Driving While Suspended or in Violation of Restriction-

15.6.a. The provisions West Virginia Code §17B-4-3 shall apply to a licensee convicted of driving while his or her license has been suspended for nonpayment of child support. The conviction shall automatically extend the period of suspension for an additional one (1) year from and after the date the licensee would have been otherwise entitled to be reinstated.

15.6.b. The Division shall suspend the license of any person who violates the terms of the restricted license. The license suspension shall continue in effect until the Child Support Enforcement Division provides the Division with either a Court order withdrawing the license action or certification that the licensee is in compliance with the court order for the payment of current child support and arrearage and the payment of all fees.

1. A conviction for violating a restricted driver's license shall result in an automatic suspension of the license until the terms of reinstatement are met. The administrative appeal provisions of section 5.5 of this rule shall apply.

2. Receipt of notice from any law enforcement officer that a licensee has violated the terms of a restricted license shall result in automatic suspension of the license until the terms of reinstatement are met. The administrative appeal provisions of section 14.5 of this rule shall govern any request for hearing.

15.7. Reinstatement of License- In accordance with the provisions of §48-5A-5(b), the suspension or restriction of a license shall continue until the Court or the Child Support Enforcement Division files with the Division either a court order restoring the license or a Child Support Enforcement Division certification of attesting to compliance with court orders for the payment of current child support and arrearage. Proof of compliance shall not mean Court documents which do not contain the signature of the Circuit Court judge or family law master, unsigned notice form the Child Support Division, copies of certified checks, personal checks, money orders or personal representation. Persons whose license was suspended shall prior to reinstatement pay all fees assessed as a result of suspension. Persons whose license was restricted shall surrender the restricted license and pay for a duplicate license.



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
**Division of Motor Vehicles**

1800 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Three  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317-0010

Cecil H. Underwood  
Governor

Richard W. Jemiola  
Secretary

Jane L. Cline  
Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENT NOTICE  
91 CSR5 1997 AMENDMENTS

Col. Gary Edgell, Superintendent  
West Virginia State Police  
725 Jefferson Road  
South Charleston, WV 25309

West Virginia Safety Council  
1614 A Washington St. East  
Charleston, WV 25311

First Lt. W.D. Totten  
West Virginia State Police  
725 Jefferson Road  
South Charleston, WV 25309

West Virginia State Medical Association  
4307 MacCorkle Ave. South East  
P.O. Box 4106  
Charleston, WV 25364

Capitol Press Service  
MB 46  
State Capitol Complex

West Virginia Trial Lawyers Association  
1018 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Charleston, WV 25311

West Virginia Optometric Association  
815 Quarrier Street  
Charleston, WV 25301

Division of Rehabilitation Services  
State Capitol Complex  
P.O. Box 50890  
Charleston, WV 25305-0890

West Virginia Academy of Ophthalmology  
P.O. Box 5008  
Charleston, WV 25361



**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**Division of Motor Vehicles**

Cecil H. Underwood  
Governor

1800 Kanawha Boulevard East • Building Three  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317-0010

Richard W. Jemiola  
Secretary

Jane L. Cline  
Commissioner

91 CSR 5  
Denial, Suspension, Revocation, or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges  
Proposed Legislative Rule (1997-98)  
Summary of Public Comment  
Agency Response

**Four Comments Received (Attached)**

1. Dr. Joseph Audia, Optometrist
2. West Virginia State Police
3. West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services
4. West Virginia Academy of Ophthalmology

**Summary of Comments and Agency Response**

1. **Dr. Audia opposes the Agency proposal to license applicants whose vision falls within the 20/40 to 20/60 visual acuity range based on the recommendations of the applicant's optometrist or ophthalmologist.**

*The Agency believes that the State can rely on the professional judgement of licensed and trained eye care professionals such as optometrists or ophthalmologists in the licensing of persons who fall within the 20/40 to 20/60 range. Both of the eye care professionals who sit on the Driver's License Advisory Board have advised that the current visual acuity standard of 20/40 or better is too limiting. The Agency is satisfied that the interests of highway safety are not compromised by this expansion of the visual acuity standards. Statements from the two vision care professionals who are members of the Drivers License Advisory Board are attached in Appendix A support the proposed changes to the visual acuity standards.*

2. **The West Virginia State Police support the proposed changes.**
3. **The Division of Rehabilitation Services submitted comments in two separate submissions. Each point is addressed individually. The Division also submitted low**

vision/bioptic lense driving information which is attached as part of their submission for the record. They recommend that the Division amend its proposal to include the use of bioptic lenses by low vision drivers.

*The Agency has not received any evidence which shows that bioptic lense use does not present a significant risk to the safety of the bioptic lense wearer or the rest of the motorists who share the road. A 1996 California study shows that bioptic lense wearers have an accident rate 2.2 times greater than average.*

*The main problem with the bioptic lense is that it limits the field of vision while using the devise. Proponents argue that the wearer only uses the lense for a brief moment. Dr. Gerald Fonda, M.D. reports in a 1988 article that the user requires three seconds to change fixation to the telescope(bioptic lense) read a sign, then refixate to the spectacle lense. If this is the case, then the distance traveled during that three seconds at 40 mph would be over half the length of a football field.*

*The Agency also submits to the record, a letter dated March 19, 1997 from Eugene Peterson, Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Transportation, National Highway Safety Administration that studies show that bioptic lense users are 2.2 times more likely involved in crashes and 2.3 times more in serious/fatal type crashes. (Appendix A.)*

*The goals of the program which trains low vision driver's are admirable. It is hard to argue against the value of allowing these citizens self sufficiency and independence. However, we must also consider the safety of general motoring public as well. The use of these lenses presents an unacceptable safety risk.*

The Agency responds point by point to each suggestion as follows:

- 3.1 Add words and/or level of driving skills to page 2 section 3.1

*The Agency response is that the present language is sufficient to describe the type of actions the Commissioner is required to take.*

- 3.2 Add words and/or level of driving skills to page 2, section 3.2.b.

*The Agency response is that the present language is sufficient to describe the type of action the Commissioner is required to take.*

- 3.3. Rewrite phrase located on page 2, section 3.2.c.

*The Agency will make the recommended change.*

- 3.4 Add language related to demonstrated level of unsatisfactory driving skill.

*The Agency does not agree with the suggestion because it contradicts the statutory responsibility of the Commissioner to only license persons who are not believed to be inimical to public safety or welfare. The comment suggests that the Agency should wait until there is some action by the driver such as an accident which suggests unsafe driving. The Agency feels that it is unconscionable to wait until some action occurs if the evidence shows that the applicant should not be operating a motor vehicle in the first place. One intent of the rule is to prevent persons from being licensed if they do not meet certain minimum physical conditions to safely operate a motor vehicle.*

3.5. Add a provision to require the Agency to notify the applicant within 70 days when an original or renewal applicant is denied licensure.

*The Agency will make the recommended change.*

3.6. Modify page 3, subdivision 3.3 heading to include vision review.

*The Agency will make the recommended change.*

3.7. Page 4, section 3.3.b.3. , substitute the word required with the word permitted.

*The Agency will make the recommended change.*

3.8. Page 4, section 3.3.c, change driver to drive

*The Agency will make the recommended change.*

3.9 Page 4, section 3.3.c., add or driver assessment or retesting.

*This subsection refers to the administrative hearing procedure which is separate from the driver reassessment or retesting which may be ordered as a result of the hearing. The language is inappropriate for the procedure being described.*

3.10 Page 5, section 3.4.a. , add the words or vision .

*The Agency disagrees with this suggestion since the subject of vision is specifically addressed in the following section, 3.4.b., so the addition is unnecessary.*

3.11 Change the subsection on page 6, section 3.4.b. to allow for the use of special lense arrangements.

*The Agency opposes this suggestion as it would permit the use of special lense arrangements commonly referred to bioptic lenses. The agency opposes the use of special nonconventional lense arrangements which restrict the peripheral vision or add a telescopic effect to vision. The use of these bioptic lenses has not been shown to allow for safe driving. California reports that persons who use these types of lenses have an accident rate over two times the rate of normally sighted drivers in spite of fewer miles on the road.*

3.12 Page 6, section 3.4.b.1, add the word acuity.

*The Agency will make the recommended change.*

3.13 Page 6, section 3.4.b.1, add the phrase to driver examination personnel at any designated STATE POLICE driver examination center.

*The commentator is correct that the present language is unclear. The suggestion attempts to clarify to whom the vision examination is to be presented. The Agency agrees the sentence is ambiguous. However, the intent is for vision examination forms to continue to go to the Division of Motor Vehicles, not the State Police. The subsection will be amended to clarify that the vision examination forms go to the Division of Motor Vehicles.*

3.14 Page 6, 3.4.b.1.B, delete the words disease or.

*The Agency does not agree with this suggestion. There are diseases which do not cause rapid deterioration of vision, but may be of concern to the Driver's License*

*Advisory Board. This information on disease is required for a thorough review by the Board.*

3.15 Page 6, section 3.4.b.2, add the word can and with a bioptic lense system.

*The Agency opposes the use of bioptic lenses for the purposes of operating a motor vehicle. Please refer to the other Agency responses on this issue.*

3.16 Page 6, section 3.4.b.2, add the words and or a standardized on-road driving test.

*The Agency does not believe that the suggested language is needed or that it further clarifies the subject.*

3.17 Page 6, section 3.4.b.2, delete designate and substitute specially trained in the assessment of lower vision drivers.

*The Agency does not believe that the additional language is necessary.*

3.18 Page 6, section 3.5.d, add the phrase within 70 calender days as a required response time.

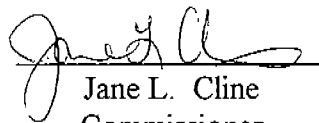
*The Agency agrees with this suggestion and will add the suggested language to require final orders to be sent within 70 days of the hearing.*

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation also submitted several pages of text describing the use of bioptic lenses. This information is attached as part of their submission to the record.

#### **4. The West Virginia Academy of Ophthalmology support the proposed changes.**

#### **Agency Changes**

Page 4, section 3.3.c contains a phrase which requires the license to be surrendered to the Division. West Virginia Code §17B-3-9 no longer requires the surrender of drivers' licenses so the requirement is obsolete.

  
Jane L. Cline  
Commissioner



DR. JOSEPH AUDIA  
Optometrist

59 Water Street  
P.O. Box 151  
Salem, West Virginia 26426-0151  
Telephone: (304) 782-1005

July 8, 1997

Jane L. Cline, Commissioner  
Public Comment Docket 91CSR5  
Room 113, Building 3 Capitol Complex  
Charleston, WV 25317

Dear Commissioner Cline :

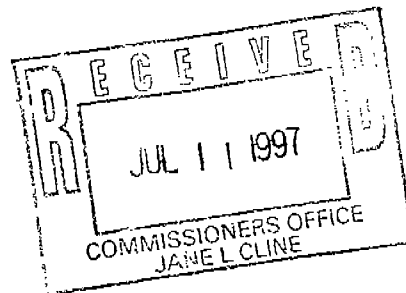
I write to you with concern over proposed legislative rule changes covering Title 91 Chapter 17A - 2 - 9 . I am an Optometrist . I do not feel that the responsibility for a decision to exempt some patients from the current 20/40 visual acuity limit should be placed upon the shoulders of the eyecare community. The law about visual acuity limitations is a straight forward one. You should NOT put human interpretation into the formula. I do not want placed into the situation to make that judgement.

I understand a concern that some drivers may have with the difference between 20/40 & 20/60 vision. For example, cataracts are not generally removed until the visual acuity is 20/60 or worse. Therefore you could have an individual seeking a drivers license be rejected based upon vision but not be able to remove their cataract until it worsens. This example should prove a rarity since most individuals would attain their license far before the age of developing a cataract.

If any visual exemptions are granted, how will you determine if the vision worsend beyond the exempt range. It seems without mandatory vision testing with renewal that you would never know. This , however is the same problem that we incur with our current vision standard. Licenses are renewed by people who have vision that does not meet the 20/40 limit.

Sincerely,

Joseph Audia, O.D.





**WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE**  
725 Jefferson Road  
South Charleston, West Virginia 25309-1698

**Cecil H. Underwood**  
Governor

July 14, 1997

**Colonel Gary L. Edgell**  
Superintendent

Commissioner Jane L. Cline  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
1800 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317

Dear Commissioner Cline:

The West Virginia State Police supports the modification of the proposed legislative rule change that allows a person with a visual acuity level between 20/40 and 20/60 to be eligible for licensing. This support is based on an ophthalmologist or optometrist determining that a person can see well enough to drive with appropriate restrictions.

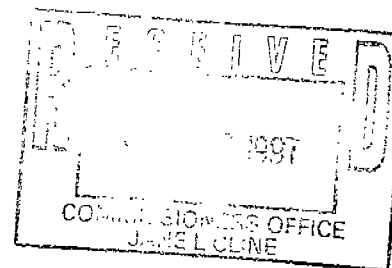
Sincerely,

BY DIRECTION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. D. Totten".

W. D. Totten, First Lieutenant  
Director  
Traffic Records

WDT/ab



Steve Dab -



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
**DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

WILLIAM TANZEY, INTERIM DIRECTOR

July 24, 1997

The Honorable Jane L. Cline, Commissioner  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
Public Comment Docket 91CSR5  
Room 113, Building 3  
1800 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317

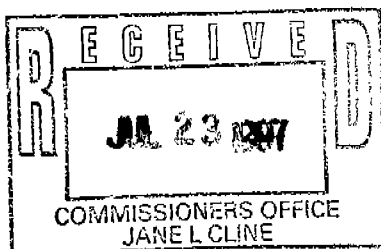
Dear Commissioner Cline:

The Division of Rehabilitation Services directed a letter to you under the date of July 17, 1997, in response to an opportunity to review and comment on your proposed rule changes to 91-CSR-5 (Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges). After further study of this issue, we are submitting additional comments on these proposed rule changes for your review and consideration. Please include these comments with our initial comments directed to you on July 17, 1997.

If additional information or clarification of suggested revisions is needed, please feel free to write or call me.

Sincerely,

William Tanzey  
Interim Director



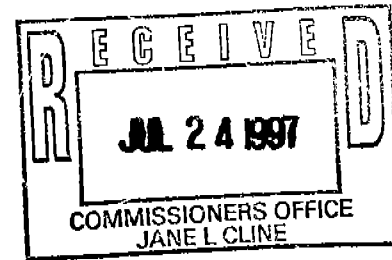
STATE CAPITOL • P. O. BOX 50890 • CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305-0890  
TELEPHONE: (304) 766-4600 • FAX: (304) 766-4671



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
**DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

WILLIAM TANZEY, INTERIM DIRECTOR

July 24, 1997



The Honorable Jane L. Cline, Commissioner  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
Public Comment Docket 91CSR5  
Room 113, Building 3  
1800 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317

Dear Commissioner Cline:

Thank you for permitting the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services an opportunity to review and comment on your proposed rule changes to 91-CSR-5 (Denial, Suspension, Revocation, or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges).

Enclosed for your review and consideration is a list of 15 minor revisions to your amended copy which we feel will strengthen your resolve to streamline the application and review process of lower vision drivers.

We anticipate that these combined rule changes to 91-CSR-5 will also:

- Make licensing officials and legislators aware that lower vision applicants can become gainfully employed after appropriate accommodation (for example, bioptic lenses), training and on-road testing have been provided in their quest for driver licensure. See enclosed list of occupations obtained by graduates of our Center's Low Vision Driver Education Training Program, 1985-1995;
- Discourage attempts by lower vision applicants to obtain unrestricted driver license privileges fraudulently via the implementation of appropriate application and review procedures which address their specific needs and abilities;

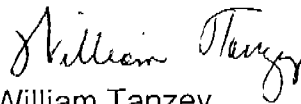
STATE CAPITOL • P. O. BOX 50890 • CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305-0890  
TELEPHONE: (304) 766-4600 • FAX: (304) 766-4671

The Honorable Jane L. Cline  
Page Two  
July 24, 1997

- Solidify our agreement with the current policy statements of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the American Optometric Association which endorse the use of bioptic lens systems for spotting purposes only during driving, based on observation of on-the-road performance by a qualified driving instructor or driving evaluator (copies of statements are enclosed);
- Encourage the development of specialized driver education training and assessment programs for lower vision applicants who want to learn how to drive safely;
- Afford lower vision applicants an opportunity to demonstrate their functional abilities to operate a motor vehicle safely under real world driving conditions and allow results of such assessments to be included in the case-by-case review by the Division of Motor Vehicles Drive License Advisory Board;
- Offer lower vision individuals access to one additional public service as offered to other disabled or non-disabled populations, in compliance with the federal Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If additional information or clarification of suggested revisions is needed, please feel free to write or call me.

Sincerely,

  
William Tanzey  
Interim Director

Enclosures

cc: David R. Ice  
Acting Cabinet Secretary



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
**DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

WILLIAM TANZEY, INTERIM DIRECTOR

**OCCUPATIONS OBTAINED BY GRADUATES OF LOW VISION  
DRIVING PROGRAM AFTER ACQUISITION OF DRIVER  
LICENSURE**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Computer Analyst                                    | Accountant                                |
| Automotive electronic Repairman                     | Accounting Department Office Associate    |
| Itinerant Physical Education Teacher                | Registered Nurse (Retired)                |
| Industrial Supervisor                               | Medical Transcriptionist                  |
| Department Store Sales Associate                    | Licensed Practical Nurse                  |
| Farmer  | Independent Vendor                        |
| Closed Workshop Supervisor                          | Fast Food Restaurant Worker               |
| Case Manager (group Home Facility)                  | Director, Black Lung Program              |
| Industrial Mechanic                                 | Department Store Customer Service Manager |
| Maintenance Worker                                  | Teacher for the Deaf                      |
| Disability Determination Services Examiner          | Radio Shack Store Sales Associate         |
| Crisis Counselor for Adolescents                    | Social Worker                             |
| Department Store Shipping Clerk                     | High School Science Teacher               |
| Commercial/Residential Office House Cleaning Worker | Economic Services Worker                  |
| Restaurant Waiter                                   | Pet Store Associate                       |
| College Student - Criminal Justice                  |   |

STATE CAPITOL • P. O. BOX 50890 • CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305-0890  
TELEPHONE: (304) 766-4600 • FAX: (304) 766-4671

**(PROPOSED)**  
**West Virginia Legislative Rules**  
**Division of Motor Vehicles**  
**91CSR5**

**Title: Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges**

**Suggested additions, deletions or changes:**

| <u>Page No.</u> | <u>Location on Page</u>                 | <u>Suggested addition, deletion or change</u>   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 2               | 3.1, Paragraph 2<br>second to last line | Add "and/or level of driving skill(s)"<br>between the word "condition" and the<br>word "of"   |
| 2               | 3.2.b.                                  | Add "and/or level of driving skills"<br>between the word "condition" and the<br>word "may"  |
| 2               | 3.2.c.                                  | Rewrite phrase to read "Require the<br>applicant to present one or both of the<br>following forms as prescribed by the<br>commissioner to the Driver License<br>Advisory Board for review and<br>recommendation." |
| 2               | 3.2.d.                                  | Add "demonstrated level of<br>unsatisfactory driving skill" between the<br>word "condition" and the word "the"  |
| 3               | 3.2.d.,<br>top of page                  | Add "within 70 calendar days from date<br>of application or renewal" between the<br>word "applicant" and the word "by"  |
| 3               | 3.3                                     | Modify title to read "Procedures for<br>Medical or Vision Review"   |
| 4               | 3.3.b.3.                                | Delete the word "required" and replace<br>it with the word "permitted"  |
| 4               | 3.3.c.<br>underlined words added        | Should read "upon a determination that<br>the licensee is incompetent to <u>drive</u> a<br>motor vehicle."  |

| <u>Page No.</u> | <u>Location on Page</u> | <u>Suggested addition, deletion or change</u>  |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| 4               | 3.3.c.                  | Add the words "or driver reassessment or retesting required" between the words "requested" and "or"  |
| 5               | 3.4.a.                  | Add the words "or vision" between the words "medical" and "case"   |
| 6               | 3.4.b.                  | Rewrite sentence to state "Special equipment or special lens arrangements, though not considered conventional for subdivision 3.4.b., will be permitted for use while driving by applicants or licensees presenting visual protocol as stated in subdivision 3.4.b.2. of this rule." |
| 6               | 3.4.b.1.                | Add the word "acuity" between the words "visual" and "level"   |
| 6               | 3.4.b.1.                | Add the phrase "to driver examination personnel at any designated STATE POLICE driver license examination center" to the end of the sentence ending with "provide a vision examination form."  |
| 6               | 3.4.b.1.B.              | Delete the words "disease or" so that B. reads "that there is no evidence of rapid deterioration of vision"  |
| 6               | 3.4.b.2                 | Add the words "can or " between "whose vision" and "can not be", also add "with a bioptic lens system after" 20/60 in one eye,"  |
| 6               | 3.4.b.2                 | Add the words "and/or a standardized on-road driving test after the words "traffic environment vision test" and before the words "be administered."  |

| <u>Page No.</u> | <u>Location on Page</u> | <u>Suggested addition, deletion or change</u>  |
|-----------------|-------------------------|--|
| 6               | 3.4.b.2                 | Delete the word "designated" and add the words "specially trained in the assessment of lower vision driver applicants" after "police". |
| 7               | 3.5.d                   | Add the phrase "within 70 calendar days" after the sentence ending in "modifying the earlier order of the commissioner."               |

# POLICY STATEMENT

## Vision Requirements For Driving

The license to drive a car on public roads should be considered a privilege rather than a right. This privilege should neither be extended indiscriminately, nor withheld without justification.

In order to properly protect the public, licensing authorities must set certain rules for extending or withholding this privilege. This position paper will discuss a rationale for such rules in general and for vision requirements in particular. The paper then proposes guidelines for non-commercial driver's license requirements and, as an addendum, discusses the use of telescopes in driving.

### General Considerations

Driving requires several different sets of abilities:

1. The sensory ability to perceive changes in a rapidly changing environment.
2. The mental ability to judge this information in a timely fashion and to make appropriate decisions.
3. The motor ability to execute these decisions.
4. Compensatory factors and abilities, which may compensate for some loss of ability in other areas.

The interaction of these factors is complex and cannot be inferred from the evaluation of the component abilities alone. For instance, an older applicant may have moderately impaired visual acuity, a moderately prolonged reaction time, and a moderately impaired motor ability due to arthritis. The combination of these factors, rather than any single factor alone, may make it inadvisable to issue a driver's license. The responsibility of issuing a driver's license rests with the Department of Motor Vehicles or the equivalent agency and can be based on an evaluation of actual driving performance.

Since it is impractical to subject all drivers to extensive on-the-road testing, certain screening tests are used. Because of the complex nature of the driving task, evaluation of test results should not be a simple pass/fail decision. At least three performance ranges should be recognized.

If performance falls in the upper range, driving ability may be assumed to be normal unless there are other reasons (such as the fast driving record) to question the driving ability.

If performance falls in the intermediate range, driving ability should be questioned, but the applicant should be given the opportunity to prove his/her on-the-road ability to compensate for the observed deficiencies.

In some instances the licensing authority may choose to issue an unrestricted license; in other instances restrictions may be placed on driving conditions and/or on the equipment used.

Individuals in this group should be judged on an individual basis. Since their conditions vary greatly, a statistical analysis of the group as a whole may not provide an adequate basis for judgment as to a particular individual's ability to perform.

If performance falls in the lower range, this usually indicates that performance in at least one critical aspect is too low to be compensated for. In such cases, a license should be denied, except under exceptional circumstances.

### Vision Requirements

Vision is the predominant source of information for the driver. However, visual abilities are not the only factors to be considered when judging the overall driving ability of an applicant. The final determination as to whether any individual is fit to drive can be made only through on-the-road evaluation and should not be based on the evaluation of vision alone.

Various aspects of vision can be impaired independently and are therefore evaluated and discussed separately. The two most important aspects of vision are:

- Peripheral vision, i.e., the extent of visual field.
- Visual acuity, i.e., the ability to read signs and to recognize details.

### Peripheral Vision

Adequate peripheral awareness is one of the most important prerequisites for driving safety. Visual field defects are relatively rare. Unfortunately, this has led to the omission of specific visual field requirements in many driving regulations.

Attention should be given not only to limitations of the far peripheral field, but also to defects in the mid-peripheral and pericentral field.

Far peripheral vision is important in order to see cars in adjacent lanes when making a lane change.

Mid-peripheral vision is important in order to see a pedestrian or dog leaving the sidewalk, or to see another car approaching an intersection. To keep a car centered in its lane requires the perception of side and center line markings in the mid-peripheral field.

## Vision Requirements For Driving

### Page 2

Blind spots in the pericentral area can hide small objects such as traffic lights. Patients with blind spots must be instructed to make frequent scanning eye movements so that the location of the blind spot is varied and so no object can remain permanently hidden.

Central and mid-peripheral defects can exist with normal far peripheral vision. They may occur in patients with glaucoma and with macular degeneration, two conditions which may be encountered more often as the number of older drivers increases.

### Visual Acuity

The ability to recognize detail is easily measured. Visual acuity, therefore, has become the most often used visual criterion for a driver's license. In most states the requirement is for 20/40 corrected vision.

Good detail vision is important to read road signs. If road signs cannot be recognized at a sufficient distance, the driver is left with insufficient time to execute a maneuver required by that sign. This is most important in unfamiliar surroundings. In familiar surroundings, where the driver derives his orientation from landmarks rather than road signs, less detail vision is required.

The 20/40 criterion has become an important guideline for highway engineers. Properly designed signs should be of such dimensions that a driver with 20/40 acuity and driving at average speed will have sufficient time to read each sign and to follow its instructions. In addition, a cluster of signs which needs to be read at the same distance and therefore in the same limited time period should also be avoided.

### Compensation for Visual Deficits

In the presence of visual or physical deficits certain compensatory measures may be indicated. Such measures may be made part of the conditions under which a driver's license is issued. Compensatory measures may involve the following:

#### Compensation for Refractive Errors

Glasses or contact lenses should be worn when needed to achieve that level of visual acuity required for the type of driver's license to be issued.

#### Compensation for Reduced Visual Acuity (not correctable with lenses)

Drivers with reduced visual acuity can in part compensate for their condition by restricting their driving to familiar surroundings, where orientation is by landmarks rather than by road signs. Drivers with reduced visual acuity also should avoid any conditions that might further adversely affect their vision, such as driving at night or under adverse weather conditions. In neighborhood driving, additional reaction time can be gained by driving more slowly, a habit practiced by

many older drivers. In highway driving, it is not acceptable to drive much slower than average.

### Compensation for Field Defects

Compensation for peripheral defects may require additional or enlarged side and rear-view mirrors. Compensation for pericentral field defects may involve instruction in increased use of scanning eye movements.

### Use of Telescopic Aids

If an individual with moderately reduced visual acuity can drive safely without telescopes, telescopes may provide him/her with some improvement in the ability to read signs at a distance. If a driver cannot drive safely without telescopes, telescopes will never make him/her a safe driver.

Careful and responsible individuals who can demonstrate that their driving performance is improved through the use of spectacle mounted telescopes for spotting, should be allowed the option to use these telescopes as needed, based on observation of on-the-road performance by a qualified driving instructor or driving evaluator. Only if on-the-road performance with telescopes is judged to be better and safer than the performance without telescopes should the use of these telescopes during normal driving be considered.

A more detailed discussion of telescopic aids is provided as an addendum.

### Guidelines

Based on the preceding considerations, the Low Vision Rehabilitation Committee of the American Academy of Ophthalmology proposes the following guidelines for issuing a non-commercial driving license for not-for-hire motor vehicles. These guidelines are to be reviewed and re-confirmed or amended at no less than three year intervals.

1. The visual acuity level of 20/40 or better is the generally accepted criterion for an unrestricted, non-commercial driving license.
2. Individuals with 20/40 or better visual acuity in the better eye, with or without corrective lenses, should be considered for an unrestricted, non-commercial driving license, if they also meet the following criteria:
  - uninterrupted visual field of 140° horizontal diameter is present;
  - no other conditions are present which may impair driving ability.

If vision can be improved with the use of glasses or contact lenses, these corrective lenses should be worn while driving. If corrective lenses are needed to improve vision to 20/40 or better, these lenses must be worn while driving.

3. Individuals with visual acuities worse than 20/40 but better than 20/200 or with a visual field of less than 140° in the horizontal diameter, should be judged on an individual basis, if they also meet the following criteria:
  - uninterrupted visual field of at least 100° horizontal diameter in one or both eyes;
  - no other conditions which, alone or in combination with the visual deficit, may impair driving ability;
  - report of recent examination within the previous three months by an ophthalmologist, or optometrist, to include as a minimum:
  - best corrected visual acuity and need for glasses or contact lenses;
  - extent of the horizontal visual field and presence of blind spots;
  - diagnosis and prognosis/stability of the eye condition; (In some locations, it may be necessary for the prospective driver to sign a release of medical information so that this information can be available.)
  - judged to be a safe driver during on-the-road evaluation by a qualified driving instructor or driving evaluator. If vision can be improved with the use of glasses or contact lenses, these corrective lenses should be worn while driving.
4. The license may include instructions to restrict driving to less demanding visual conditions such as daytime driving and driving in familiar areas only. Reevaluations of the license may also be conducted on a more frequent basis than for unrestricted licenses.
5. The individual evaluation should include a review of the past driving record and of non-visual driving related abilities as well as observation of on-the-road performance by a qualified driving instructor or driving evaluator. Inasmuch as glare may influence the ability to function while driving, a driver's ability to function under various lighting situations should be considered. The usefulness and safety of telescopic devices as accessory driving aids can only be evaluated during on-the-road observation. Under no circumstances should telescopic devices be considered as tools to meet static visual acuity criteria.
6. Individuals with best corrected visual acuity of less than 20/200 in the better eye, or with a visual field of less than 100° in the horizontal diameter, should not drive a motor vehicle, except as determined on a case-by-case basis on appeal to the licensing authority.

## Addendum

### Driving with Telescopes

Telescopes are optical devices that can be used to enhance the apparent visual acuity at the expense of the visual field. When reversed, they can enhance the apparent visual field at the expense of a loss in visual acuity.

Reverse telescopes are used only in cases of extreme field loss. Patients with such advanced field loss would be unsafe drivers with or without a reverse telescope.

Handheld telescopes cannot be handled while driving.

Certain lens combinations (e.g., a negative contact lens in combination with a positive spectacle lens) can have a very low power telescopic effect.

Low power, spectacle mounted telescopes have been advocated for and have been used by drivers with moderately reduced visual acuity. This solution has some merits but may also pose some significant problems. The following discussion pertains to the use of spectacle-mounted telescopes.

#### 1. Enhanced Visual Acuity Comes at the Expense of Reduced Visual Field

If a 5 degree area of the visual field is magnified 2 times to occupy 10 degrees, the area between 5 and 10 degrees of the unmagnified peripheral field will be blocked. Thus, no telescope can be designed which does not create a pericentral scotoma (blind spot). Often this scotoma is enlarged further by the rim of the device.

It is essential that every user of a spectacle-mounted telescope understands that the telescopes should be used for spotting only. One should never drive while looking through the telescope continuously. Head movements will reduce the effect of the scotoma; however, such head movements also make reading through the telescope more difficult (see below).

#### 2. Magnification Causes Apparent Motion

When the direction of a 2x telescope is changed by one degree, the magnified image must shift two degrees. Therefore, an apparent counter movement is created. In a moving car such movements are unavoidable. For certain individuals this may be extremely disturbing and dangerous. Even for less sensitive individuals the apparent movement is detrimental because it reduces the effective visual acuity. Stationary visual acuity measurements do not reliably predict the effective acuity obtained in a moving vehicle.

3. Useful Range of Magnification

The above factors limit the range of useful telescopic magnification. Telescopes of less than 2x power are too weak to be useful. Telescopes stronger than 3x offer too small a field of view and create too large a pericentral scotoma. More importantly, the apparent movement of objects seen through stronger telescopes becomes greater so that no actual further gain in reading distance can be achieved. Thus, the useful range is of 2x to 3x.

4. Effective Gain

A 2x (3x) telescope would theoretically extend the distance at which a road sign could be read by a factor of 2x (3x). This would give the driver 2x (3x) more time to react to a road sign. However, the actual visual acuity gain is less because of apparent movement, and the actual time gained is less because the time needed to move from regular, unrestricted, unmagnified driving vision to telescopic spotting vision and back must be subtracted.

In summary, spectacle-mounted telescopes can provide a limited improvement in the ability to see detail at distance, but this improvement is gained at the expense of other complications.

Telescopes can enhance the measured visual acuity but reduce peripheral vision while used. The effective gain in a moving vehicle is less than that measured under stationary conditions, such as in the Department of Motor Vehicles office. Functional testing and on-the-road observation are mandatory. Under no circumstances should telescopic devices be considered as tools to meet certain static visual acuity criteria.

If an individual can drive safely without a telescope, a telescope may provide him/her with some improvement in the ability to read signs at a distance. If a driver cannot drive safely without a telescope, a telescope will never make him/her a safe driver. Therefore, all individuals considered for driving with spectacle-mounted telescopes should also meet the requirements for a restricted license as outlined above.

On average, younger individuals and individuals in the 20/40 to 20/100 range will respond best to use of telescopes. A 2x or 3x telescope may bring them to the 20/40 criterion level. Individuals for whom reading acuity is more reduced than letter acuity and individuals with a low reaction speed in general will benefit less from telescopes and may consider the device more of a hindrance than a help.

On-the-Road Evaluation

Drivers who are interested in the use of telescopes should be trained and evaluated by qualified driving instructors who should judge their driving performance with and without telescopes. The following guidelines for on-the-road evaluation may be considered; they apply to driving with and without telescopes alike.

In addition to the usual observation of mechanical driving skills and of adherence to traffic rules, particular attention should be given to the processing of visual information. To this end, the applicant may be asked to name aloud all traffic signs and potential obstacles perceived (e.g., 'car backing out', 'pedestrian at crosswalk', etc.).

The observer should pay attention to the following:

- A sign or object needs to be detected in the regular, unmagnified but unrestricted field of view, before it can be selected for closer observation through the telescope.
- The distance at which signs are perceived will give an impression of the effective visual acuity.
- Identification of unimportant signs is significant, since the driver must be able to recognize a sign before he/she can decide to ignore it.
- Identification of signs on both sides of the road is important. The driver should not miss any signs on the left while trying hard to read those signs on the right. This observation will give an impression of effective peripheral awareness.
- Observation of the individual's ability to differentiate between a red traffic light, a red pedestrian light and a red advertising sign should occur since it is harder than merely detecting a red light.

Approved by: Board of Directors  
February 1989

Revised and  
Approved by: Board of Trustees  
September 1995

## STATEMENT ON THE USE OF BIOPTIC TELESCOPES FOR DRIVING

The American Optometric Association acknowledges that driving is not a right but a privilege. Issues related to public safety are of primary concern. However, access to driving privilege should not categorically be denied to individuals who may have reduced visual acuity but with adequate residual vision and cognition and who demonstrate ability as qualified, competent drivers. This paper describes the bioptic driving population, the multifaceted aspects of vision, principles of bioptic telescopes, current vision criteria used for drivers licensure, and multidisciplinary adaptive driver education programming. It reviews current research and suggests areas of future research and interdisciplinary cooperation. The American Optometric Association calls for a rational approach to consideration of individuals adapted to bioptic telescopic spectacles who apply for drivers licensure.

### WHO ARE THE BIOPTIC DRIVING POPULATION?

Current figures show that approximately 10 million Americans are significantly visually impaired today, (1) and U.S. Census projections and other sources indicate as many as 15.7 million will be visually handicapped by the year 2050, ranging from mild impairment to total blindness. (2,3) The majority of these individuals have distance visual acuity in the 20/50 to 20/200 range. Visual acuity alone may be a useful quantitative measure, but does not provide a qualitative measure of the multifaceted visual skills that impact driving. Abilities related to visual field, color perception, contrast discrimination, photosensitivity and glare recovery, oculomotor skills, etc., along with cognitive factors vary in the visually handicapped population suggesting the need for thorough evaluation and individual consideration. (4-20)

Access to independent mobility at any level is a primary goal in vision rehabilitation. Livelihoods may depend on independent mechanized mobility. For the purposes of this paper the segment of the "low vision" population referred to has undergone a current comprehensive low vision evaluation by an optometrist or ophthalmologist assessing the status of ocular pathology and addressing the multiple visual factors described above. Prescription of bioptic telescopic spectacles may be appropriate to meet a variety of visual needs especially in relation to education, employment and ambulatory mobility. The optometrist or ophthalmologist may have the opportunity to select candidates who may be able to master dynamic skills required for driving with the use of bioptic telescopes. The eye care practitioner may work with associated professionals in blind rehabilitation, driver education, occupational and physical therapy and/or state driver improvement departments to assist appropriate individuals in gaining drivers licenses. As of June, 1994, 29 states permit driving with bioptic telescopic lenses. (21) Obtaining bioptic telescopic spectacles does not guarantee that an individual will be granted a drivers license in those states. The effectiveness of an individual's visual and functional performance with the bioptic telescopic system should be the determining factor for the licensing agency on a case-by-case basis.

## WHAT ARE BIOPTIC TELESCOPES?

Biopic telescopes are spectacle mounted devices that magnify distant objects. They are permanently fixed on a spectacle carrier lens fabricated to the patient's conventional prescription (and tint, when appropriate). Biopic telescopes are mounted off axis, usually in the superior position but, depending on the patient's need, may be fixed in other positions. They may be monocular or binocular. A few states require superior mounting; most do not specify telescopic placement. Diversity in technology of telescopic design requires an individual approach to fitting, training and specific use while driving. (5-15,21,22)

## HOW ARE BIOPTIC TELESCOPES USED FOR DRIVING?

Issues related to biopic telescopes and driving are well documented. (4-10,21-24) Individuals using biopic telescopes for driving view mainly through the prescriptive carrier lens thus maintaining visual field as though viewing through conventional spectacles. Persons eligible for licensure with biopic telescopes are those select individuals who are able to see large objects through their carrier lenses but may not be able to discern details or read signage from great distances. When detailed vision is required, telescopic view is engaged with a head and/or eye movement - thus the term "biopic". One criticism of the use of biopic telescopes for driving stems from the misconception that the telescope portion is used continually, thus limiting visual field. (24) Actually, the telescopic portion of the biopic system is in use only a small percentage of driving time. (21) When the concept is understood and mastered, this misconception erodes.

## WHAT ARE THE VISION CRITERIA USED FOR DRIVING?

Two types of drivers licenses for persons with reduced visual acuity currently exist nationally, though specific criteria vary from state to state:

1. Restricted license - e.g. daytime only, limited distance, limited purpose or excluding freeway use, etc. A restricted license, depending on state regulations, may be granted to individuals with spectacle acuity of 20/40 to 20/120 in the better eye. Some states have a minimum binocular visual field requirement. (21)
2. Biopic Telescopic System License - specifications are not uniform in the 29 states that license biopic drivers. The minimum acuity allowable through the telescopic system may be 20/70, however most states specify corrected acuity with the telescope to fall in the 20/40 to 20/50 range. (21)

Some individuals may obtain licenses that are a combination of both types. License renewal policies vary widely from state to state.

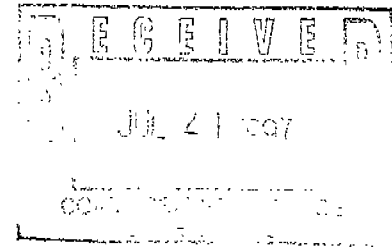
Steve Daly



WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE ARTS  
**DIVISION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES**

WILLIAM TANZEY, INTERIM DIRECTOR

June 17, 1997



The Honorable Jane L. Cline, Commissioner  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
Public Comment Docket 91CSR5  
Room 113, Building 3  
1800 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317

Dear Commissioner Cline:

Thank you for permitting the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services an opportunity to review and comment on your proposed rule changes to 91-CSR-5 (Denial, Suspension, Revocation, or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges).

Enclosed for your review and consideration is a list of 15 minor revisions to your amended copy which we feel will strengthen your resolve to streamline the application and review process of lower vision drivers.

We anticipate that these combined rule changes to 91-CSR-5 will also:

- Discourage attempts by some lower vision applicants to obtain unrestricted driver license privileges fraudulently;
- Encourage the development of specialized driver education training and assessment programs for lower vision applicants who want to learn how to drive safely;
- Afford lower vision applicants an opportunity to demonstrate their functional abilities to operate a motor vehicle safely under real world driving conditions and allow results of such assessments to be included in the case-by-case review by the Division of Motor Vehicles Driver License Advisory Board;

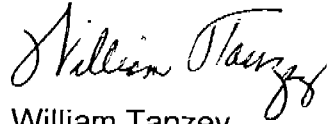
STATE CAPITOL • P. O. BOX 50890 • CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305-0890  
TELEPHONE: (304) 766-4600 • FAX: (304) 766-4671

The Honorable Jane L. Cline  
Page Two  
July 17, 1997

- Offer lower vision individuals access to one additional public service as offered to other disabled or non-disabled populations, in compliance with the federal Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If additional information or clarification of suggested revisions is needed, please feel free to write or call me.

Sincerely yours,



William Tanzey  
Interim Director

Enclosure

CC: David R. Ice

(PROPOSED)  
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RULES  
DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES  
91CSR5

Title: Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of Driving Privileges

Suggested additions, deletions or changes:

| <u>Page No.</u> | <u>Location on Page</u>                 | <u>Suggested addition, deletion or change</u>   |
|-----------------|---|---|
| 2               | 3.1, Paragraph 2<br>second to last line | Add "and/or level of driving skill(s)" between the word "condition" and the word "of"   |
| 2               | 3.2.b.                                  | Add "and/or level of driving skills" between the word "condition" and the word "may"  |
| 2               | 3.2.c.                                  | Rewrite phrase to read<br>"Require the applicant to present one or both of the following forms as prescribed by the commissioner to the Driver License Advisory Board for review and recommendation:" |
| 2               | 3.2.d.                                  | Add "demonstrated level of unsatisfactory driving skill" between the word "condition" and the word "the"  |
| 3               | 3.2.d.,<br>top of page                  | Add "within 70 calendar days from date of application or renewal" between the word "applicant" and the word "by"  |
| 3               | 3.3                                     | Modify title to read<br>"Procedures for Medical or Vision Review"   |
| 4               | 3.3.b.3.                                | Delete the word "required" and replace it with the word "permitted"   |

| <u>Page No.</u> | <u>Location on Page</u>                      | <u>Suggested addition, deletion or change</u>  |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 4               | 3.3.c.                                       | Add the words "or driver reassessment or retesting required" between the words "requested" and "or"  |
| 5               | 3.4.a.                                       | Add the words "or vision" between the words "medical" and "case" ))  |
| 6               | 3.4.b.<br>(first sentence<br>at top of page) | rewrite sentence to state "Special equipment or special lens arrangements, though not considered conventional for subdivision 3.4.b., will be permitted for use while driving by applicants or licensees presenting visual protocol as stated in subdivision 3.4.b.2. of this rule." |
| 6               | 3.4.b.1.                                     | Add the word "acuity" between the words "visual" and "level"   |
| 6               | 3.4.b.1.                                     | Add the phrase "to driver examination personnel at any designated STATE POLICE driver license examination center" to the end of the sentence ending with "provide a vision examination form."  |
| 6               | 3.4.b.1.B.                                   | Delete the words "disease or" so that B. reads "that there is no evidence of rapid deterioration of vision"  |
| 6               | 3.4.b.2.                                     | Add the words "and/or a standardized on-road driving test after the words "traffic environment vision test" and before the words "be administered."  |
| 7               | 3.5.d.                                       | Add the phrase "within 70 calendar days" after the sentence ending in "modifying the earlier order of the commissioner."   |



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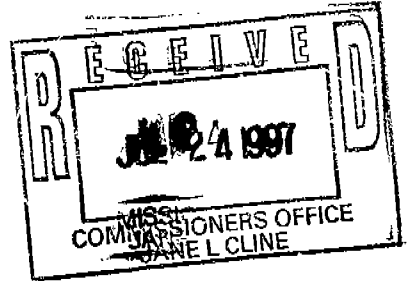
Joseph LoCascio, MD  
Huntington, WV

**Executive Director**

Thomas J. Stevens  
Charleston, WV

July 14, 1997

Mr. Steve Dale, Executive Assistant  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
Department of Transportation  
Building 3 Room 113  
State Capitol Complex  
Charleston, West Virginia 25317



Dear Mr. Dale:

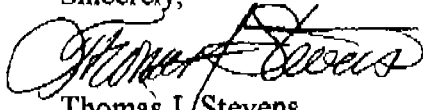
The West Virginia Academy of Ophthalmology (WVAO), a non-profit educational institution of eye physicians and surgeons, is pleased to respond to your request to review the modifications to legislative rules 91CSR5 as proposed by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

The Division of Motor Vehicles is to be commended for its excellent work in the preparation of the proposed rules, keeping first in priority the safety of all motor vehicle operators, passengers and pedestrians. The proposals meet this important criteria and also provide for an individual review of motorists with less than standard vision.

The proposals also recognize the value of eye care professionals in the examination, diagnosis and treatment of individuals with visual acuity deficiencies. The review by ophthalmologists and optometrists are appropriately included in the professional performance of their responsibilities under the provisions of the proposed modifications to the rules. The utilization of the statutory duties of the Driver's License Advisory Board is also proper and pertinent to the administration of the proposals under the standards for medical or vision review.

The Academy is pleased to endorse the modifications to the legislative rules 91CSR5 as proposed by the Division of Motor Vehicles. As a former Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles, I am very pleased to acknowledge this endorsement.

Sincerely,

  
Thomas J. Stevens  
Executive Director



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

National Highway  
Traffic Safety  
Administration

Region III  
Delaware, District of Columbia  
Maryland, Pennsylvania  
Virginia, West Virginia

10 South Howard Street, Suite 4000  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201  
☎ (410) 962-0077 X3027 Voice  
☎ (410) 962-2770 Fax

Appendix +

March 19, 1997

Ms. Jane L. Cline  
Commissioner  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
1800 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Charleston, WV 25317-0010

Dear Ms. Cline:

Many parties in the State of West Virginia have forwarded to our attention a copy of House Bill 2392 which deals with the use of Biotopic Telescopic Lenses (BTL) and their potential uses to allow low vision individuals to operate motor vehicles.

Upon receipt of the bill and other background materials my office formulated an opinion and further initiated a response from the Research and Evaluations Division of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Our joint response to House Bill 2392, is that it will not reduce traffic crashes, serious injuries, or fatalities with a reliable degree of statistical significance for those drivers who will be using BLT devices or for the rest of the motoring public that will share the road with them. Our reasoning is based upon the findings from national data as well as studies conducted in other States. Specifically, there is data that shows drivers with valid driver licenses who use BTL's to be 2.2 times more likely involved in crashes and 2.3 times more in serious injury/fatal type crashes.

An additional concern is that in any single state the quantity of BTL licenses issued is small in number. However, the risk factors and raw data results increase when aggregated nationally.

Until we have more information to the contrary, NHTSA is not in a position to affirm that BTL devices will improve motor vehicle safety in the state of West Virginia. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this decision, please do not hesitate to contact my office at 410-962-0077.

Sincerely,

  
Eugene Peterson  
Regional Administrator

CC: Chuck Huss



AUTO SAFETY HOTLINE  
(800) 424-9393  
Wash., D.C. Area 366-0123

TOTAL P.02



**DR. EDDIE PRENDERGAST**

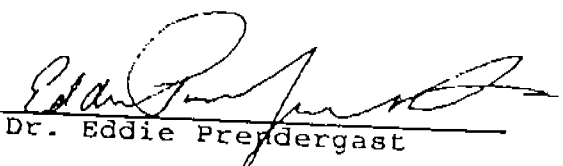
DISEASES OF THE EYE  
CONTACT LENS SPECIALIST

February 14, 1997

To: WV Dept. of Transportation  
Division of Motor Vehicles

I agree that the minimum visual acuity standard of 20/40 should be raised to 20/60 or 20/70, as long as a person has adequate visual function. Meaning that a person should have adequate visual fields and some binocular function.

I have always believed that the 20/40 acuity level was too limiting. I believe drivers with adequate visual function can safely operate motor vehicles with acuities much less than 20/40. However, some cases may need to be reviewed from time to time.

  
Dr. Eddie Prendergast

- 651 Water Street . Summersville, West Virginia 26651 . 304/872-5678
- 37 E. Main Street . Richwood, West Virginia 26261 . 304/846-6312
- 138 Baker Street . Webster Springs, West Virginia 26288 . 304/847-5714





The Laser Surgery Center

**R. DAVID ALLARA, M.D.**EYE AND EAR CLINIC OF CHARLESTON  
1306 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST  
CHARLESTON, WV 25301DIPLOMATE, AMERICAN BOARD OF OPHTHALMOLOGY  
DISEASES AND SURGERY OF THE EYEOFFICE PHONE: (304) 353-0245 (6)  
TOLL FREE: 1-800-642-3049 (WV)  
FAX: 353-0215

February 19, 1997

West Virginia Department of Transportation  
Division of Motor Vehicles  
1800 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Building #3  
Charleston, WV 25317-0017  
Attn: Jane L. Cline

Dear Commissioner:

I received a request for my opinion in regard to raising the minimum visual acuity standards for West Virginia drivers. At present our current standard is 20/40 visual acuity in at least one eye. My professional recommendations would be that the current standard could be raised to 20/60 in at least one eye, providing there are no serious eye injuries that would limit someones peripheral vision but allow them to have a best corrected visual acuity of 20/60 centrally in at least one eye.

Sincerely yours,

R. David Allara, M.D.

RDA/mas