

**WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE**

KEN HECHLER

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION

Form #3

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**NOTICE OF AGENCY APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED RULE
AND
FILING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE RULE-MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE**

AGENCY: Department of Motor Vehicles TITLE NUMBER: 91

CITE AUTHORITY West Virginia Code §17A-2-9

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 5

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Denial, Suspension, Revocation or
Non Renewal of Driving Privileges

IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: _____

THE ABOVE PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RULE HAVING GONE TO A PUBLIC HEARING OR A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD IS HEREBY APPROVED BY THE PROMULGATING AGENCY FOR FILING WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LEGISLATIVE RULE MAKING REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR THEIR REVIEW.

L. J. Bechtold



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1967 JUL 14 PA 2:52

DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
CHARLESTON, W. VA.
25317

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.
Governor

SECRETARY OF STATE
L. W. BECHTOLD
Commissioner

Summary of Proposed Rule Changes
Title 91, Series 5

Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Non Renewal of Driving Privileges

1. Eliminate the nine point interview and substitute a mail questionnaire which will reduce Department expenditures and will result in substantial savings to Licensees who currently must take time off from work duties to attend.
2. Eliminate certain vehicle equipment violations from point assessment.
3. Modify driver improvement clinic program rules to allow organizations other than the West Virginia Safety Council to conduct programs.
4. Promulgate Department procedures dealing with bad checks and out-of-state violation license suspension and revocation.
5. Update the rule language which was promulgated in 1964.

(Proposed)
TITLE 91
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE RULES
DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
SERIES 5

FILED
1987 AUG 17 AM 9:07
SECRETARY OF STATE

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

§91-5-1. General

1.1 Scope - These regulations establish procedures for the denial, suspension, revocation, nonrenewal and reinstatement of motor vehicle operating privileges.

1.2 Authority - West Virginia Code §17A-2-9, §17B-2-7.

1.3 Filing Date - ~~May-19, 1965. Regulation 3:00 was amended and refiled on April 20, 1983. Regulation 6:00 was amended and refiled on August 18, 1973. Regulation 7:00 was amended and refiled on August 3, 1970. Regulation 8:00 was amended and refiled on April 11, 1967. and Regulation 9:00 was amended and refiled on March 7, 1973.~~

1.4 Effective Date - ~~May-19, 1965.~~

§91-5-2. Application and Enforcement

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

2.2 Enforcement - Enforcement of these regulations is vested with the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles or lawful designee.

§91-5-3. Denial of Driving Privileges for Medical Reasons

3.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17B-2-3 provides that the Department of Motor Vehicles shall not issue any operator's license, chauffeur's license, or junior probationary 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 department to suspend the license of an operator, chauffeur, or junior probationary operator 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, an operator's, chauffeur's, or junior probationary license will not be issued to or renewed 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

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applicant at the time application for license is made.

3.2 Procedures - The Commissioner, after reviewing the letter of explanation, may:

- (1) Approve the application for license;
- (2) Approve the application for license, and impose appropriate restrictions as the applicant's physical or mental condition may require; or
- (3) Require the applicant to present a Medical Report Form, completed by a physician of the applicant's choice, licensed in the United States, or 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 Medical Report Form and Vision Examination Report Form shall be as provided by the Commissioner. The Commissioner, upon receipt of the advice of the Board, may take the action as indicated in number (1) or (2) above, or may refuse the application and order the suspension of the license.

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 applicant shall be notified by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested and shall be entitled to a hearing on the refusal by the Commissioner.

Upon receipt, by the applicant, of the refusal to issue or renew a driver's license, the applicant shall have ten (10) calendar days to request, in writing, from the Commissioner a hearing upon the refusal of the Commissioner to either issue or renew a license. Such 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 Chapter 29A, Article 5, of the Code, shall apply to the hearing. ~~except that in the case of a resident of this State,~~ The hearing shall be held 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. Any such hearing shall be held within twenty days after the date upon which the Commissioner received the written request. The Commissioner may postpone or continue any hearing upon his own motion or upon application of the licensee for good cause shown.

For the purpose of conducting such 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 provision of West Virginia Code §29A-5-1.

The purpose scope of the hearing shall be whether the operation of a motor vehicle on the public streets and highways of this State by the person would be inimical to public safety or welfare.

After the hearing and consideration of all the testimony, evidence, and record in the case, the Commissioner shall make and enter an order affirming, rescinding, or modifying the earlier order of the Commissioner.

A copy of the order made and entered following the hearing shall be served upon the licensee or applicant by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.

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If the Commissioner, after the hearing, does make and enter an order affirming his earlier order of suspension or non renewal, the person shall be entitled to judicial review as set forth in West Virginia Code Chapter 29A of the Code.

Upon a showing by its records or other sufficient evidence that the licensee is incompetent to drive a motor vehicle, the Department may suspend the license of an operator or chauffeur without a preliminary hearing pursuant to West Virginia Code §17B-3-6. of the Code

The Department, having good cause to believe that a licensed operator or chauffeur is incompetent, or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, may upon written notice of at least five days to the licensee require him to submit to an a medical examination and present a Medical Report Form, completed by a physician of the applicant's choice, licensed in the United States, or 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 established in accordance with West Virginia Code §17B-2-7a. The Medical Report Form and Vision Examination Report Form shall be as provided by the Commissioner.

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;
- (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 to submit further information to determine whether or not he is competent to drive a motor vehicle.

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 person's license to operate a motor vehicle in this State. The Department, upon suspending a license, shall require that the license be surrendered to and be retained by the Department until the outcome of any hearing requested or until the end of the period of the suspension. A copy of the order shall be immediately forwarded to the person by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested.

§91-5-4. Reinstatement of Suspended Registration

4.1 Procedures - Upon suspension of any registration in accordance with any of the provisions of the West Virginia Motor Vehicle Safety Responsibility Law, Chapter 17D of the Code, the license or registration plate involved shall be forthwith destroyed upon receipt of same by the Department. This procedure is necessary because of the limited storage facilities available to the Department and by virtue of the cost which would be involved in attempting to store such plates. Accordingly, upon reinstatement of any such registration within the registration period, application must be

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made for a duplicate or substitute registration or license plate upon the form prescribed for such purpose, and the fee required shall be that established by West Virginia Code §17A-10-11. If the registration card pertaining to the registration which was suspended was not returned to the Department during the period of suspension, and such applicant does not possess such card at the time of reinstatement of the suspended registration, the fee established by said Section 11 for obtaining a duplicate or substitute registration card shall also be required.

§91-5-5. Reinstatement of Driving Privileges of Persons Whose Operator's and Chauffeur's Licenses Were Revoked under Prior Enactment of §17C-5-2.

5.1 Procedures - Any person whose operator's or chauffeur's license has been revoked may apply for restoration of ~~his or her~~ driving privileges at at the end of the period of revocation or minimum period of revocation as the case may be. Any such person whose driving privileges were revoked for a conviction under West Virginia Code §17C-5-2 prior to its reenactment in 1981. ~~must execute and file with the Department, on the form prescribed therefor, a duly notarized petition seeking~~ may request in writing to have such person's driving privileges restored. In addition to filing proof of financial responsibility as required by West Virginia Code Chapter 17D, Article 4 of the Code, any such person convicted for a ~~second or~~ subsequent offense under said Section 2 West Virginia Code §17C-5-2 within a period of five (5) years must also, in light of the former provisions of said West Virginia Code §17C-5-2 obtain and file with the petition written request, four five letters from ~~reputable business men~~ persons in the applicant's community, ~~on their printed letterhead, as well as a letter from a member of the Department of Public Safety, sheriff or municipal police officer.~~ 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 again to repeat the offense for which the license was revoked; that the public good 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. All hearings upon the ~~petition deemed necessary by the Department, if any,~~ written request for restoration of driving privileges shall be held in accordance with the provisions of Department of Motor Vehicles Rule Series 1, Section 3.

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

6.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17B-3-3 relative to suspending authorizes the Commissioner to suspend a resident's license upon conviction in another state. ~~reads as follows:~~

~~"The Department is authorized to suspend or revoke the license of any resident of this state or the privilege of a non-resident to drive a motor vehicle in this state upon receiving notice of the conviction of such person in another state of an offense~~

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~~therein which, if committed in this state, would be grounds for the suspension or revocation of the license of an operator or chauffeur."~~

~~The provisions of this section of the Code are such that it requires the Commissioner to adopt administrative regulations outlining the Department's policy in handling such convictions.~~

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

If the records of the Department disclose that a conviction is the second or subsequent conviction of the same offense in this or any other jurisdiction, the Department would shall suspend or revoke the resident's driving privileges and/or ~~registration privileges~~ in the same manner as if the offense had occurred in this state.

~~The provisions of this Administrative Regulation would not apply to traffic convictions that are assigned point values as provided in Department Administrative Regulation Series 5, Section 7.2.~~

~~The reinstatement of the Resident's Driving privileges and/or registration privilege can only be restored after the resident licensee has complied with all the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code and Administrative Regulations in the same manner that would be required if such resident licensee had been convicted in this State.~~

~~Entered as a Department Revised Administrative Regulation, Series 5, Section 6.00, this Third Day of May, 1972.~~

§91-5-7. The Point System

7.1 Records - ~~Although all of the reasons listed in §17B-3-6 for which the Department may suspend an operator's or chauffeur's license without preliminary hearing are extremely serious, it is imperative that those individuals who fall within Subsections 3 and 4 be identified for special attention, because experience has proved that it is these individuals who cause many of the traffic accidents.~~ In this connection West Virginia Code §17B-2-14 requires that convenient records be kept or suitable notations made so in order that an individual record of each licensee showing the convictions of such licensee shall be readily ascertainable and available for consideration by the Department 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 Division Section is herein established.

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 state, of any of the following offenses involving a motor vehicle, which conviction has become final, the offense and the point total shown opposite such offense will be entered on such licensee's driver record maintained by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Statute Violated	<u>General Description of Offenses</u>	<u>Point Value</u>
§17C-5-3, §17C-18-1	Reckless Driving	6
§17C-4-2, §17C-18-1	Hit and run involving property damage only	4
§17C-6-1	Speeding in excess of 15 m.p.h. in school zone	6
§17C-12-7, §17C-18-1	Passing stopped school bus	4
§17C-3-4, §17C-12-5, §17C-18-1	Failure to obey stop signs and other traffic signs and control devices, except failure to obey traffic light signals	3
§17C-3-5, §17C-3-7, §17C-18-1	Failure to obey traffic control signals or traffic light signals	3
§17C-7-2, §17C-7-6, §17C-18-1	Driving to <u>left</u> side of roadway	3

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§17C-6-1, §17C-18-1	Driving too fast for conditions, failure to keep vehicle under control, or hazardous driving	3
§17C-6-1, §17C-6-4, §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 70 m.p.h. and conviction was in excess of 85 m.p.h.	6
§17C-6-1, §17C-6-4, §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, §17C-9-2, §17C-9-3, §17C-9-4, §17C-9-5, §17C-10-2, §17C-12-6, §17C-18-1	Failure of driver to yield right of way	3
§17C-8-2, §17C-8-3, §17C-8-4, §17C-18-1	Improper righthand and lefthand turns	2
§17C-7-3, §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 §17C-18-1	Passing in face of oncoming traffic	3
§17C-7-7, §17C-18-1	Passing in no-passing zone	3
§17C-15-1, §17C-15-3, §17C-18-1	Defective or improper brakes	2
§17C-15-1, §17C-18-1	Operation of vehicle in unsafe condition	2
§17C-15-1, §17C-15-2, §17C-18-1	Operation of vehicle without lighted lamps or lights when required to be lighted	2

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§17C-15-1,	Operation of a vehicle with improper tail lamps or	2
§17C-15-5,	lights, or stop lamps or lights, or signal lamps or	
§17C-15-7,	lights	
§17C-15-18,		
§17C-18-1		
§17C-7-10,	Following too closely	2
§17C-18-1		
§17C-14-5,	Operation of a vehicle with more than	2
§17C-18-1	three persons in the front seat	
§17C-14-2,	Improper backing	2
§17C-18-1		
§17C-7-8,	Driving wrong way on one-way street,	2
§17C-18-1	highway or roadway	
§17C-8-6,	Improper turning movements, or improper	2
§17C-8-8,	signals, or no signals	
§17C-8-9,		
§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 ~~That Would Have~~ With No Point Value - The abstracts of traffic convictions outlined herein below would not be considered a moving violation and consequently have no point value in the administration of the Driver Improvement Program:

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

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

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

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

~~The above type of convictions would be recorded on the operator's record but no points would be assessed the operator for the convictions. However, if any abstract is received for the convictions outlined above while the operator's driving privileges were suspended, such conviction would be the basis for an extension of the suspension period.~~

~~Convictions of this type would not be the basis for revoking a Junior Operator's License as provided in §17B-2-3.~~

7.4 Traffic Accidents Not Involving Convictions - Although West

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~~Virginia Code §17B-2-14 also provides that convenient records be kept or suitable notations made with respect to on~~ traffic accidents, no points will be assigned for any traffic accident not involving a conviction; however, when sufficient points have been accumulated to result in ~~an interview~~ a review of a driver's record as outlined in ~~Sec. 7.9, Sec. 7.12,~~ records on file in the Department of any accident not involving a conviction may be considered, ~~as outlined in Sec. 7.10 in determining the action, if any, to be taken following such interview.~~

7.5 West Virginia Drivers Convicted In Other States - The appropriate number of points indicated in Section 7.2 will be noted on the driver record of any licensee convicted of any of the above offenses in violation of any municipal charter, bylaw or ordinance of any municipality in West Virginia, consistent with the provisions in West Virginia Code §17B-3-3. Any licensee of the State of West Virginia convicted in any other state or municipality therein, or in the District of Columbia, of any offense described in Section 7.2 in violation of any statute or ordinance of such other state, municipality or District of Columbia shall be charged with the appropriate number of points shown in said Section 7.2 opposite the description of such 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 Department 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, shall be 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, points will be assigned for only one such offense and when there is a difference in the point values of the offenses, the greater point value will be assigned.

~~7.7.8~~ Revocations - West Virginia Code §17B-3-5 provides that certain convictions result in an automatic revocation, as opposed to suspension, of the operator's or chauffeur's license of the person so convicted. In as much as revocation is mandatory, such offenses will be noted by the Department on the driver record involved, but no points will be assigned for such convictions, except for reckless driving convictions where revocation is not mandatory unless there are three such convictions within a period of ~~twelve~~ twenty-four months. 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 Department under the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-4 such conviction shall be noted, without point value, on the driver record of the individual concerned.

~~7.7.9~~ Warning Letters - The Department shall send a warning letter to any licensee whose record shows a total of 6 points. The letter will advise the driver licensee of the convictions recorded on ~~his or her~~ the licensee's.

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driver record, will remind the licensee of the Department's power of suspension and will urge the licensee to make every effort to drive safely at all times.

7.9 Interviews---Any licensee whose record shows a total of 9 to 12 points will be ordered to appear for an interview with a representative of the Department. These interviews will be held throughout the State, and due regard will be given to the convenience of the licensee in selecting the time and place of the interview. At such interview, the entire driving record of the licensee will be reviewed with special attention being devoted to an analysis of the driving weaknesses of the licensee and possible corrective measures to improve the driving of such licensee. The emphasis at the interview, as in the administration of the entire point system, will be driver improvement. The interviewing officer may recommend no action; that the licensee be warned that continued violation of traffic laws may result in suspension of his or her privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the streets and highways of this State; that the driver be placed on probation under certain conditions; that the operator's or chauffeur's license of such licensee be restricted; or that the operator's or chauffeur's license of such licensee be suspended. Refusal, neglect or failure to appear, without good cause, for an interview at the time and place directed by the Department shall be grounds for suspension of the operator's or chauffeur's license of the person so ordered to appear.

7.10 Review Of Driver Record After Interview---After the interview and completion of the interviewing officer's report and recommendations, the Department shall make a conscientious, impartial and exhaustive review of the driver record concerned, and, in the exercise of sound discretion, shall either take no action, or warn the licensee involved that continued violation of traffic laws may result in suspension of his or her privilege to operate a motor vehicle, or place such licensee on probation under reasonable conditions established by the Department for a period not to exceed one year, or restrict the operator's or chauffeur's license of such licensee for a period not to exceed one year or suspend the operator's or chauffeur's license of such licensee for such period not to exceed one year as to the Department seems right and proper. If it is determined that some action shall be taken, it shall be because, as specified in §17B-3-6, the Department has determined that the licensee has been convicted with such frequency of serious offenses against traffic regulations governing the movement of vehicles as to indicate a disrespect for traffic laws and a disregard for the safety of other persons on the highways or is an habitually reckless or negligent driver of a motor vehicle, and not because of the number of points accumulated. In accordance with §17B-2-14, the point system is solely for the purpose of spotting those licensees whose driver records disclose a need for special attention.

In determining the course to pursue following any interview, as outlined above, the Department shall in each individual instance consider all of the facts and circumstances at hand, including without limitation, the driver record of the licensee involved, the interviewing officer's report and recommendations pertaining to such licensee, police reports concerning such licensee on file in the Department, driver re-examination records, if any,

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~~pertaining to such licensee, accident reports concerning such licensee on file in the Department, the record of convictions for which the point values were eliminated as specified in Section 7.12 hereof (and Section 8.0 when the Driver Improvement Clinics are established), and any and all other official forms or records pertaining to such licensee on file in the Department.~~

~~7.11 Subsequent Warning Letters and Interviews -- Any person who, after accumulating 9 to 12 points resulting in an interview as outlined in Section 7.9, accumulates 4 additional points within two years from the date of the last conviction involved in the 9 to 12 point total, shall receive another warning letter, and any such person who accumulates 6 points in such period shall be ordered to appear for another interview. After such interview, the Department shall proceed as set forth in Section 7.10.~~

7.10 Driver Improvement Questionnaire - Any licensee whose record shows a total of nine (9) to eleven (11) points will be requested to complete a Driver Improvement Questionnaire. This questionnaire will be mailed to the licensees most recent drivers license address on file with the Department and pursuant to the provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-2-19, the licensee shall be considered as having been given notice upon expiration of four days from mailing. The questionnaire shall be completed in full by the licensee and submitted to the Department within twenty-days from the date of the letter. For the purposes of this section, the postmark on the envelope of the mailed questionnaire shall serve as the measure of compliance with the twenty day requirement.

7.11 Failure to Submit or Complete Questionnaire - within the required time period will result in an order being directed to the licensee to appear for an interview with a representative of the Department in the licensee's county of residence. At the interview, the driving record of the licensee will be reviewed. Failure of the licensee to appear at this interview, without good cause shall be grounds for suspension of the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle for a period of thirty days.

7.12 Accumulation of Twelve or More Points - will result in the Department undertaking a review of the licensee's driving record. This review shall be based on a consideration of all facts and circumstances including the driving 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 Department. After an evaluation of the licensee's driving record, the Department may: 1) advise the licensee that continued violation of traffic laws will result in suspension of the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle, or 2) place the licensee on probation under such conditions as the Department feels is necessary for a period not to exceed one (1) year, or 3) 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 it is determined that some action is to be taken, it shall be because, as specified in West Virginia Code §17B-3-6, the Department has determined that the licensee has been convicted with such frequency of serious offenses against traffic regulations governing the

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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.

~~7-127.13~~ Length Of Time Points Maintained On Driving Record - The total number of points, if any, accumulated by any licensee shall be maintained ~~with respect to such licensee~~ for a period of two years from and after the date of the conviction noted on such licensee's driver record. Thereafter, the points shall be eliminated but the record of convictions shall remain so that if at any future time sufficient points are accumulated to cause the Department to ~~order such review~~ the licensee's ~~to appear for an interview~~ driving record, such convictions may be considered in determining the action, if any, to be taken following such interview review. The point totals accumulated by any licensee who, after interview review, is placed on probation ~~under reasonable conditions, or whose operator's or chauffeur's license is restricted or suspended following interview review~~, or who is placed or remains on probation following a hearing, ~~or whose license is or remains restricted~~, or is or remains suspended following a hearing, in accordance with the provisions of Section ~~7-14~~ 7.15 hereof, shall be eliminated 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 Department to ~~order such licensee to appear for another interview~~ review the licensee's driving record, such convictions may be considered in determining the any action, if any, to which may be taken following such interview.

~~7-137.14~~ Effective Starting Time For Period Of Suspension - The suspension of any operator's or chauffeur's license under the Driver Improvement Program shall be effective four ten days from mailing of the notice of suspension. ~~The period of suspension shall begin to run from that date provided the license is voluntarily returned to and received by the Department within ten days from such mailing of the notice of suspension. ---If it is necessary to have the Department of Public Safety secure such license in accordance with §17B-3-9, the period of suspension shall begin to run from the date such license is actually obtained by the Department when it is determined that a restricted license shall be issued for a period not to exceed one year, such period shall begin to run from the date such restricted license is issued.---(Revised this 20th day of April, 1968.)~~ Eligibility for reinstatement shall be calculated in accordance with Department of Motor Vehicles Rule Series 16, Eligibility for Reinstatement Following Suspension or Revocation.

~~7-147.15~~ Hearings - In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-6, any licensee whose license is suspended following interview or placed on probation shall be entitled to a hearing. ~~as a matter of right. Furthermore, the same is true for any licensee whose license after interview review is restricted, or who, after interview, is placed on probation under reasonable conditions established by the Department.~~ The request or demand for any such hearing shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Section 3 Department of Motor Vehicles Rule, Series 1, Administrative Due

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Process, and the hearing shall be conducted as provided in said Section-3 rule. When a hearing is requested or demanded, the Department shall, in accordance with the provisions of Section-4, Series-1, give the licensee notice of the time and place of hearing. The hearing shall be held as early as practical. The Commissioner may postpone or continue any hearing on his own motion or upon the application of the licensee for good cause shown, within not to exceed 20 days after receipt of such demand or request in the county wherein the licensee resides unless the Department and the licensee agree that such hearing may be held in some other county. The notice of hearing shall advise the licensee of the matters to be considered at such hearing. When an operator's or chauffeur's license is suspended following interview and a hearing is requested or demanded, as provided in §17B-3-6, Upon such hearing the Department shall either rescind its order of suspension or probation or, good cause appearing therefor, may extend affirm the suspension or probation of such license, or revoke such license. If the suspension is rescinded, but the Department feels that some lesser action is nevertheless appropriate, the Department may place such the licensee on probation under reasonable conditions established by the Department for a period not to exceed one year from the date of rescission of such the suspension, or may issue a restricted license for a period not to exceed one year from the date of rescission of the suspension. When the action concerning which such hearing is requested or demanded is restriction of the licensee's operator's or chauffeur's license, upon such hearing the Department may rescind its action and take no action, or place such licensee on probation under reasonable conditions, or suspend such license. When the action concerning which such hearing is requested or demanded is probation under reasonable conditions, upon such hearing the Department may rescind its action and take no action, or restrict the license of such licensee or suspend such license.

7-157.16 Writ of Certiorari Judicial Review - Any licensee whose operator's or chauffeur's license is, or remains, suspended after a hearing held in accordance with the provisions of this Section or Department of Motor Vehicles Rule, Section-3, Series 1, or whose operator's or chauffeur's license is, or remains, restricted after such a hearing, or who after such a hearing is placed, or remains, on probation under reasonable conditions established by the Department, shall, of course, be entitled to seek a writ of certiorari, judicial review in accordance with the provisions of Chapter-53, Article-3 of the Code West Virginia Code §29A-5-4 and any other remedies provided by law for the review of the action taken by the Department.

7-167.17 Applying For Reinstatement, Unrestricted License Or Relief Of Probation - Any licensee whose license is suspended, or who is issued a restricted license, or who is placed on probation under conditions may at any time during the period of suspension, restriction or probation apply for request reinstatement of such suspended license, or for the issuance of any unrestricted license, or to be relieved from such probation, as the case may be. (Of course, no action is required to have one's driving privileges fully restored at the expiration of the period of suspension, restriction or probation.) Such application shall be on the form prescribed for such

~~purpose by the Department. Upon receipt of any such application request, the Department may make such an investigation as is deemed appropriate and in the exercise of sound discretion shall take whatever action appears to be just and proper. Any licensee whose license is revoked after hearing in accordance with the provisions of §17B-3-8 may, after the expiration of one year from the date on which the revoked license was surrendered to and received by the Department, make application for restoration of his or her driving privileges under the provisions of §17B-3-8. Such application shall be on the form prescribed for such purpose by the Department. Upon receipt of any such application, the Department shall, as required by said §17B-3-8, make such investigation as is deemed appropriate and in the exercise of sound discretion shall take whatever action appears to be just and proper.~~

§91-5-8. Driver Improvement Clinics

8.1 ~~Procedures - The purpose of Driver Improvement Clinics is to offer instruction in highway and traffic safety and to impress upon those attending such clinics that only a conscientious effort on the part of every driver can decrease the slaughter on our highways.~~

~~Driver Improvement Clinics are conducted at various times and locations throughout the State, and are available to the motoring public. The instructors conducting these clinics are certified by the National Safety Council as being qualified to teach the course. The eight-hour course compites must be approved with standards established by the National Safety Council, the West Virginia Safety Council, and the West Virginia Department of Public Safety. Teaching manuals and films used in the clinics are also approved by the West Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. The instructors conducting these clinics must be certified by the approved organization.~~

8.2 ~~Points To Be Deducted Upon Successful Completion - Since the clinics meet the required standards for Driver Improvement courses, the Department of Motor Vehicles believes the program can be used successfully and to a good advantage in its Driver Improvement Program. Persons who have accumulated points under the Driver Improvement Program should be given an incentive to attend the clinics. Attendance at any such Driver Improvement Clinic clinic must be voluntary on the part of the licensee; however, on successful completion of the eight-hour a course, three points will be deducted from the total points shown on the record of the licensee. The privilege of deducting points for completing the a course will be permitted one time only 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. No points will be deducted for from any licensee's record who may have attended and received a certificate from the a clinic prior to accumulating any points on the licensee's driving record.~~

~~When interviewing a person who has accumulated nine points under the Driver Improvement Program, the reviewing officer should advise the licensee of the program and suggest that the licensee attend a local clinic.~~

~~A certificate must be presented from the instructor of the clinic to the Department of Motor Vehicles, showing that the course has been completed by~~

the licensee before the points can be removed from the record. ~~The certificate must be approved by the Department of Public Safety.~~

Although three points will be so subtracted, the record of all convictions involving motor vehicles will remain so that if at any future time sufficient points are accumulated to cause the Department to require another interview, review, the conviction for which the points were eliminated may be considered along with all other convictions of record in the Department in determining the action, if any, to be taken following such interview review.

§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 Department of Motor Vehicles may require a re-examination of a licensed operator or chauffeur.

The Department, having good cause to believe that a licensed operator or chauffeur is incompetent or otherwise not qualified to be licensed, may upon written notice of at least five days to require the licensee ~~require him~~ to submit to an examination. Upon the conclusion of such the examination, the Department shall take such 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 such the examination shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of his the license.

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

The re-examination shall consist of three parts. The first part covering physical qualifications shall consist of a vision test and color blindness test and an inquiry into any physical disability. In addition to the physical qualifications, the examining officer shall be required to conduct a personal interview with the licensee. ~~so that other important data can be obtained.~~

The second part of the re-examination shall consist of a written test composed of questions equally weighted of equal value. A minimum of 70% of ~~said the~~ questions covering motor vehicles laws, rules of the road, highway warnings, traffic signs and signaling devices will be required to pass the re-examination. The written test may be ~~taken~~ administered orally verbally if the licensee is determined by the examiner to be illiterate.

The reference document for the material on the test shall come from the official Driver's Handbook as prescribed by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

The third part of the re-examination shall be the driving test ~~and shall be the same test~~ that is given to new applicants applying for driver's licenses in this state. A passing score shall also be the same as required for new applicants. The driving test shall not be given if the licensee fails to meet

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the minimum physical standards as set forth by the ~~Department of Public Safety, General Order 31.~~ Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

If the licensee fails ~~his first driver's license~~ the re-examination, ~~his the license is thereby~~ will be suspended indefinitely upon notice from the Department of Motor Vehicles. ~~Such~~ The notice shall be sent by certified or registered mail and the suspension shall be effective four days after the date of the suspension order.

~~Example:--If the order were dated January 1, 1971, the suspension would be effective January 5, 1971.~~

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

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

If the licensee fails to pass the re-examination because of failure to meet the visual qualifications, no further examination shall be granted until adequate evidence of sufficient visual improvement has been submitted.

Upon showing of good cause the Department may request any licensee to submit a medical report of a recent medical examination. ~~Such~~ The report must be submitted on forms prescribed by the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles in accordance with Section 3 of this rule.

~~If the licensee is required to submit a medical report, and such report does not constitute adequate medical clearance, his license shall be suspended under the provisions of §17B-3-7.~~ After review of the submitted medical report, the Commissioner shall determine whether or not the license should be suspended in accordance with West Virginia Code §17B-3-7.

~~After~~ If the licensee's driver's license has been is suspended because of a physical condition and a satisfactory medical report is then subsequently submitted, the Commissioner may require the licensee to submit to a re-examination of ~~his the~~ licensee's driving ability before ~~such licensee's the~~ driver's license is reinstated.

~~If the licensee is required to submit a medical report, the report submitted must be accepted as constituting adequate medical clearance. If the licensee is otherwise qualified for driving privileges, in respect to the provisions of the West Virginia Motor Vehicle Code and the Administrative Regulations of the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Commissioner may permit the licensee to retain his license or he may impose such restrictions or conditions applicable to the licensee as he determines to be necessary. Where a restricted license is required by law, the Commissioner shall cause such restricted license to be issued, except that a driver's license re-examination shall be required if the licensee's driving ability is questionable.~~

Refusal or neglect of the licensee to submit to such driver

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re-examination or physical examination, or both, requested in accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17B-3-7, is shall be grounds for suspension or revocation of the licensee's driver's license. ~~Such suspension or revocation shall remain in effect until such time as the licensee is in complete compliance with the Code, the Department's Administrative Regulations, and the Commissioner is satisfied that the licensee is qualified to operate a motor vehicle.~~

~~Entered as a Department Administrative Regulation Series 5, Section 9, the 15th day of October, 1971.~~

§91-5-10 Suspension or Revocation Following Notice of Returned Check

10.1 Statutory Provisions - West Virginia Code §17A-2-16 authorizes the Department to suspend or revoke any and all registration cards, permits, operators, and chauffeur licenses and registration plates issued to the person, firm or corporation by whom or on whose account any such fee or tax shall have been determined to remain unpaid after such reasonable notice and demand. West Virginia Code §17A-2-23 authorizes the Department to apply a penalty fee in addition to any other penalty imposed by the West Virginia Code.

10.2 Determination of Unpaid Fee or Tax - Upon receipt of any check returned to the Department unpaid for any reason, the Department shall deem such fee or tax unpaid. If after reasonable notice the fee or tax remains unpaid, the Department shall suspend and/or revoke any and all registration cards, permits, operators and chauffeurs license and registration plates issued to the person, firm or corporation in accordance with West Virginia Code §17A-2-16.

10.3 Reasonable Notice and Demand - Upon the Department's receipt of a check or checks which are returned unpaid for any reason by the maker's financial institution, the maker of the check and the licensee or registrant, if different from the check maker, shall be mailed a notice of proposed suspension or revocation. Said 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 any and all licenses or registrations shall become effective. The licensee or registrant has ten (10) days to surrender the suspended or revoked licenses or registrations to the Department.

10.5 Failure to Surrender Documents - In accordance with the provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-9-7 and §17B-3-9, the Department shall notify the Superintendent of Public Safety to secure possession of such documents which the licensee has failed to surrender and return same to the Department.

10.6 Administrative Hearing - Upon the written request of the

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licensee or registrant within ten (10) days of the date of mailing of the notice of proposed suspension, or revocation the Commissioner will afford the licensee the opportunity for an administrative hearing. The scope of the hearing shall be limited to whether or not the fee or tax in question has been paid to the Department. The Commissioner may postpone 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 provides 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 of suspended or revoked licenses and registrations. The provisions of West Virginia Code §17A-9-7 and §17B-3-9 also provide for an additional fee if the Department of Public Safety 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

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, 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, each member state 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 - Upon notification of noncompliance from another compact state, the licensee is sent a proposed order of suspension to the licensee's address of record by certified mail, return receipt requested, the proposed order of suspension shall indicate that the Department must receive proof of compliance with the terms of the citation within forty-five (45) days.

11.4 Proof of Compliance - Proof of compliance shall mean 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 the citation was dismissed, or adjudicated not guilty. Proof of compliance shall not mean personal representation, copies of money orders, personal checks, or certified checks.

11.5 Failure to Respond - If the department does not receive proof of compliance within the required forty-five (45) days, the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle will be suspended 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 Department of Motor Vehicles within ten (10)

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days of the effective date of suspension, the Department shall order the Department of Public Safety to secure such 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 opportunity for an administrative hearing. The scope of the hearing shall be 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 §17A-3-9 shall apply. Payment of these fees, in addition to compliance with the terms of the citation in accordance with 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.

3



DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
CHARLESTON, W. VA.
25317

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.
Governor

L. W. BECHTOLD
Commissioner

Public Comment Period Notification

Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Non Renewal of Driving Privileges

Delores Martin, Executive Vice President
American Automobile Association - State

Dr. Kenard McPherson
West Virginia Safety and Driver's Education Association

West Virginia Safety Council

West Virginia State Bar

Harry Dietzler
West Virginia Prosecuting Attorney's Association

Capitol Press Service

Paul Stewart - Transportation
Department of Education

Milton Bennett - Driver Education
Department of Education

Scott Ash
Assistant Attorney General

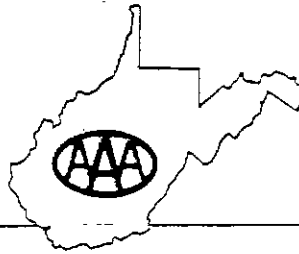
James Albert
Criminal Justice and Highway Safety

Lt. Paul Gyke - Driver Testing
West Virginia State Police

Lt. J. R. J. Bias - Planning & Research
West Virginia State Police

Comments received are attached along with the Department's response.

AAA
WEST VIRGINIA
STATE ASSOCIATION



40th St. & MacCORKLE AVENUE, S.E.
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25304
TELEPHONE (304) 925-6681

DA: August 13, 1987

TO: Secretary of State Office; Attn.:
Steven O. Dale

FR: Dolores Martin, Executive Vice President
AAA West Virginia State Association

RE: Comments On Proposed Rule Changes:
Denial, Suspension, Revocation or Nonrenewal of
Driving Privileges

Dear Mr. Dale,

Please find the following comments as they pertain to the proposed rule changes as titled above.

On the whole, AAA West Virginia State Association finds the effort to clean up the language of the rule a positive step towards better definition of the laws and an easier system to understand. However, as an organization which has over 135,000 members in West Virginia, I feel that some of these changes may not be in the best interest of West Virginia motorists.

Specifically, 91-5-7, 17C-6-1, 6-4, 18-1 where speeding points are defined for certain limit infractions. I feel that there should be a definition of degree. For example, a 55 mph infraction in a 35 mph zone is more dangerous than 40 mph in a 35 mph zone. Perhaps points should be given accordingly, i.e. 3 points for the 40 mph infraction, 6 points for the 55 mph infraction, etc., instead of waiting for the buffer of 75 mph to increase the point total.

I would also like to voice our opinion on the proposal to remove any point assessment for non-driver error, such as bad brakes or operation of a vehicle in an unsafe condition. With reports now linking brake failure to as many as one-third heavy truck accidents and quite naturally many other vehicles' accidents are similarly attributed to maintenance, we feel that by taking points off for these infractions you are destroying much of the deterrent factor in keeping vehicles in a safe condition. In fact, it would probably create a safer driving atmosphere if the point value we increased. Please consider this. I also think that it may be a good idea to add points to convictions for violating height and weight laws.

Serving 135,000 West Virginia Members

AAA Offices: Beckley, Bluefield, Charleston, Clarksburg, Fairlea, Fairmont, Huntington, Martinsburg, Morgantown, Moundsville, Parkersburg, St. Albans, Weirton, Wheeling

As for other points of interest, I can say that some, such as proposed changes to 91-5-8, can get our support.

Thank you for the attention you are giving this matter. If I may can answer anything, or clarify anything, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dolores Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Dolores Martin



DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES
STATE OFFICE BUILDING
CHARLESTON, W. VA.
25317

ARCH A. MOORE, JR.
Governor

L. W. BECHTOLD
Commissioner

Public Comments: Title 91, Series 5

Comments of Delores Martin, American Automobile Association

Comment 1. Points for speeding offenses should be given on the basis of number of miles over the posted speed limit, as opposed to actual speed.

Response: The Department feels that the current procedure of six points for speeding violations 76 miles per hour and over and three points for speeding under 76 miles per hour is appropriate. The Department makes a special exception when the speeding offense occurs in a school zone. Six points are assessed in that situation. Speeding offenses at higher speeds are more indicative of irresponsible and careless driving, and more likely to cause accidents than infractions at lesser speeds.

Comment 2. The Department should not remove point assessment for equipment violations on motor vehicles.

Response: The Department feels that the purpose of the Point System is driver improvement, not vehicle improvement. Citations are issued and fines are paid for motor vehicle equipment violations. The point system has been developed to identify drivers who may be prone to careless driving. Penalizing drivers for equipment violations is counterproductive to its goals of the driver improvement program.

Comment 3. The Department should assess points for convictions for violations of height and weight laws.

Response: The drivers/owners of overweight vehicles are fined upon conviction and risk impoundment of their vehicles. The Department feels point assessment for non-driver related infractions are inappropriate and counterproductive to the goals and objectives of the driver improvement program.