

(S. B. 16)

(No. 61)

(Approved August 23, 2005)

AN ACT

To amend Section 3.14 of Act No. 22 of January 7, 2000, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act,” in order to establish a term in which the holder of a driver’s license may renew the same before the expiration of said driver’s license.

STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

Section 3.14 of Act No. 22 of January 7, 2000, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act,” establishes the effectiveness and renewal of driver’s licenses.

Said Section of the Act provides that every person authorized to hold a driver’s license shall be granted a grace period of thirty (30) days as of the expiration date of the license to renew the same. However, the Act does not provide for a term prior to the expiration date thereof for its holder to renew the same at the Department of Transportation and Public Works, without the problem of waiting in line, that the computer system does not allow him/her to proceed with the matter in question at the agency, because the license has not yet expired.

The Legislature of Puerto Rico deems it meritorious to allow a person who acts responsibly to renew his/her driver’s license before its expiration date. Allowing such action constitutes a reward for such diligent behavior.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF PUERTO RICO:

Section 1.- Section 3.14 of Chapter XIII of Act No. 22 of January 7, 2000, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3.14.-Effectiveness and renewal of driver’s licenses.-

Every license to operate a motor vehicle issued by the Secretary shall be issued for a term of six (6) years, and may be renewed on successive terms every six (6) years. The expiration date of the driver’s license shall coincide with the holder’s date of birth. The renewal may be carried out up to sixty (60) days prior to its expiration date. When the driver opts to renew the license prior to its expiration date, he/she shall give up the license to be renewed so as to comply with the provisions of Section 3.01 of this Act, which prohibit authorized drivers to hold more than one driver’s license.

The terms and the authority to renew the licenses established in this Section shall not apply to learner’s permits and may be modified by the Secretary regarding any type of license whenever public service laws and regulations make it necessary.

Any person who holds a driver’s license must renew it within thirty (30) days as of the expiration date, after paying of the fees mentioned in Section 23.02 of this Act.

After a maximum term of two (2) years counting from the expiration date of the license, the person who wishes to renew his/her license must pay the renewal fees established in Section 23.02 of this Act. Every license shall be void after two (2) years from its expiration. Therefore, every driver who wishes to have his/her driving license renewed after said term has elapsed, must take the examinations determined by the Secretary in order to obtain a new driver’s license of the same category as that of the expired license.

The Secretary shall establish, through regulations, the license renewal process and every renewal shall be requested on the form authorized by the Secretary to such effects. The Secretary shall require headshots of the applicant, as well as a medical certificate attesting to his/her physical, visual, and mental condition pursuant to the provisions of Section 3.09 of this Act.

The Secretary may require any person who requests the renewal of a driver's license to take a written and practical examination that will gauge his/her knowledge and ability to drive a motor vehicle of the class, and with the limitations as authorized in the license to be renewed.

Every time a driver's license is renewed, a new certificate shall be issued to the person requesting renewal pursuant to the provisions of Section 3.13 of this Act, containing those modifications pertaining to the renewal, as the Secretary may deem necessary, and as provided through regulations.

Provided, that every person who is domiciled in Puerto Rico who holds a driving license that expires while said person is in a state or territory of the United States or a foreign country, may request the renewal thereof provided the medical certification is completed by a physician licensed to practice medicine in the state or country of residence of the applicant, as attested by the individual code or identification number granted by the corresponding authority.”

Section 2.- This Act shall take effect one hundred and eighty (180) days after its approval.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following Act No. 61 (S.B. 16) of the 1st Session of the 15th Legislature of Puerto Rico:

AN ACT to amend Section 3.14 of Act No. 22 of January 7, 2000, as amended, known as the “Puerto Rico Vehicle and Traffic Act,” in order to establish a term in which the holder of a driver’s license may renew the same before the expiration of said driver’s license,

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, today 1st of February of 2006.

Francisco J. Domenech
Director