

**CONFIDENTIAL**  
**LEGISLATIVE BILL REVIEW FORM: 2015**

**Bill Number:** H.160      **Name of Bill:** An act relating to requirements for older drivers to obtain or renew operator's licenses

**Agency/Dept:** Vermont State Police      **Author of Bill Review:** Lt. Garry Scott

**Date of Bill Review:** 02-13-15      **Related Bills and Key Players:** AARP, DMV, Medical Profession, Law Enforcement and Vermont Highway Safety Alliance

**Status of Bill: (check one)**

☒ **Upon Introduction**      ☐ **As passed by 1<sup>st</sup> body**      ☐ **As passed by both bodies**

**Recommended Position:**

☐ **Support**      ☒ **Oppose**      ☐ **Remain Neutral**      ☐ **Support with modifications identified in # 8 below**

**Analysis of Bill**

- 1. Summary of bill and issue it addresses.** This bill proposes to require residents 75 years of age or older to appear in person and pass a vision test in order to obtain or renew an operator's license and residents 80 years of age or older additionally to pass a road test.
- 2. Is there a need for this bill?** No. Vermont Law enforcement is currently in the process of revamping the driver re-examination process. The new process being implemented into the curriculum of the basic police academy would educate law enforcement officer how to identify drivers of all ages having diminished cognitive abilities. There would be a standardized systematic process for law enforcement to follow and would not be based on age, as drivers of all ages have poor vision. Dictating specific ages for mandatory retesting is unfair and unwarranted. Re-examination should be based on articulable facts and circumstances.
- 3. What are likely to be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for this Department?**  
There would be no known costs that would affect the Vermont State Police.
- 4. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for other departments in state government, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**  
The state of Vermont is aging rapidly much like the rest of the United State is aging. In fact, census polls indicate that Vermont will see an 85% increase of people over the age of 65 by the year 2030. If the state implements mandatory retesting for people 75 or 80 years of age the DMV would need to increase its ability to handle the massive increase in workload.
- 5. What might be the fiscal and programmatic implications of this bill for others, and what is likely to be their perspective on it?**  
In Vermont we have two established driving rehabilitation programs; The University of Vermont Medical Center in Colchester and Adaptive Driving Associates in White River Junction. We will soon have a third program at Rutland Regional (expected May 2015). These programs would require more funding for the extreme influx of mandatory testing required.

## 6. Other Stakeholders:

### 6.1 Who else is likely to support the proposal and why?

The uninformed population that hear selected stories of older drivers that are involved in motor vehicle crashes that attracted media attention.

### 6.2 Who else is likely to oppose the proposal and why?

AARP, DMV, Vermont State Police, Council on Aging. Vision begins to deteriorate at age 40. 75 and 80 are just arbitrary ages with no justification or data to support it.

## 7. Rationale for recommendation:

Today's older drivers are not only less likely to be involved in a crash than prior generations, they are less likely to be killed or seriously injured if they do crash. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety) Vehicles are safer and seniors are generally healthier. Older drivers tend to self-regulate themselves: not driving at night, or in bad weather or to areas that are overly congested or unknown. The data debunks the myths that we are facing a surge of bad older drivers. Crash rates among older drivers continue to decrease. There is no known data to support this Bill. In fact, crash data for drivers 75 and older in Vermont show that leading cause of crashes in 2013 & 2014 was distraction and inattention. (possible cognitive issues) The state of Vermont is actively implementing programs to address safe driving issues amongst all drivers.

## 8. Specific modifications that would be needed to recommend support of this bill:

Re-examination should be based on specific facts and circumstances. Law enforcement, the medical profession and family and friends should be informed enough to access the resources need to have a friend or loved one re-examined without fear of repercussions of civil litigation.

## 9. Gubernatorial appointments to board or commission? No

Secretary/Commissioner has reviewed this document



Date: 3/11/15