

1 AN ACT relating to vision testing for motor vehicle operators and making an  
2 appropriation therefor.

3 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

4 ➔Section 1. KRS 186.577 is amended to read as follows:

5 (1) **(a) The following persons shall submit to a test of visual acuity and visual field**  
6 **at the time of application or renewal:**

7 **1. All persons applying for an initial *or renewal* operator's license;**

8 **2. All persons applying for~~or~~ an initial *or renewal* instruction permit;**  
9 **and**

10 **3. Any person required to complete an examination under KRS 186.635**  
11 ~~[shall submit to a test of visual acuity and visual field at the time of~~  
12 ~~application].~~

13 **(2) Vision testing under this section shall be administered:**

14 **(a) Prior to the time of application under subsection (5) of this section;**

15 **(b) By Kentucky State Police at the time of application; or**

16 **(c) By the Transportation Cabinet at the time of application.**

17 ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ **(a) Persons whose visual acuity is 20/40 or better *and who meet or exceed***  
18 **the visual field standard established by the Transportation Cabinet** without  
19 corrective lenses shall not have a restriction placed on their driving privileges.

20 **(b) Persons whose visual acuity is 20/40 or better *and who meet or exceed the***  
21 **visual field standard established by the Transportation Cabinet** with  
22 corrective lenses shall have their driving privileges restricted to mandate the  
23 use of the corrective lenses.

24 **(c) If a person fails to meet a 20/40 visual acuity standard *or the visual field***  
25 **standard established by the cabinet,** ~~[the Department of Kentucky State~~  
26 ~~Police shall refer]~~ the person **shall be referred** to a vision specialist for  
27 examination.

1 ~~(4)~~~~(3)~~ A person referred to a vision specialist ~~by the Department of Kentucky State~~  
2 ~~Police~~ under subsection ~~(3)~~~~(2)~~ of this section whose visual acuity is 20/60 or  
3 better **and who meets or exceeds the visual field standard established by the**  
4 **cabinet** shall be eligible to test for an instruction permit or operator's license, **or**  
5 **shall be eligible for operator's license renewal.** If corrective lenses were prescribed  
6 by the vision specialist, the person's driving privileges shall be restricted to mandate  
7 the use of the corrective lenses.

8 **(5) Vision tests administered under paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of this section**  
9 **shall be deemed to meet the testing provisions outlined in subsections (3) or (4) of**  
10 **this section, if the person submits a driver vision testing form that complies with**  
11 **the provisions of subsection (6) of this section and the form has been completed**  
12 **by:**

13 **(a) A vision specialist; or**

14 **(b) An osteopath, physician, or advanced practice registered nurse who is**  
15 **credentialed by the cabinet to perform vision testing under this section.**

16 **(6) All driver vision testing forms completed under subsection (5) of this section**  
17 **shall:**

18 **(a) Attest that the applicant meets or exceeds the visual acuity standard and**  
19 **visual field standard established by the cabinet;**

20 **(b) Only be valid if the vision specialist or the credentialed osteopath,**  
21 **credentialed physician, or credentialed advanced practice registered nurse**  
22 **signed and completed the vision testing form less than twelve (12) months**  
23 **prior to the date of application or renewal;**

24 **(c) State whether the driving privileges of the applicant shall be restricted to**  
25 **mandate the use of corrective lenses; and**

26 **(d) Clearly indicate that the vision testing under this section is a screening for**  
27 **minimum vision standards established in this section and is not a complete**

1 eye examination.

2 (7) Any person seeking application or permit under subsection (1) of this section  
 3 shall attest that he or she has submitted to and passed the visual acuity and visual  
 4 field tests required under this section.

5 (8) Any person renewing an operator's license under KRS 186.416 shall be exempt  
 6 from the vision testing requirements outlined in this section.

7 ~~(9)~~[(4)] Persons who meet the requirements of KRS 186.578 and are issued operator's  
 8 licenses under KRS 186.579 shall:

9 (a) Have their driving privileges restricted to the use of a bioptic telescopic  
 10 device; and

11 (b) Be exempt from this section.

12 (10) The Transportation Cabinet shall promulgate administrative regulations  
 13 pursuant to KRS Chapter 13A to implement the provisions of this section,  
 14 including but not limited to establishing visual field standards, the creation of a  
 15 driver vision testing form, and establishing a credentialing process for osteopaths,  
 16 physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses to conduct vision testing  
 17 under this section.

18 (11) The Transportation Cabinet may promulgate administrative regulations pursuant  
 19 to KRS Chapter 13A to:

20 (a) Implement a system for electronic transmission of driver vision testing  
 21 forms and accompanying documentation; and

22 (b) Assess a fee to an applicant to cover the administrative costs of performing  
 23 on-site vision testing. Any funds received from this fee shall be deposited  
 24 into the photo license account established in Section 3 of this Act.

25 ➔Section 2. KRS 186.480 is amended to read as follows:

26 (1) The Department of Kentucky State Police shall examine every applicant for an  
 27 operator's license as identified in KRS 186.635, except as otherwise provided in this

1 section. The examination shall be held in the county where the applicant resides  
2 unless:

3 (a) The applicant is granted written permission by the Transportation Cabinet to  
4 take the examination in another county~~[, and the Department of Kentucky~~  
5 ~~State Police agree to arrange for the examination in the other county]~~; or

6 (b) The applicant is tested using a bioptic telescopic device.

7 (2) The examination shall include a test of the applicant's eyesight to ensure compliance  
8 with the visual acuity *and visual field* standards set forth in *Section 1 of this*  
9 *Act*~~[KRS 186.577]~~. **The vision testing outlined in this subsection shall be**  
10 **administered under the provisions established in Section 1 of this Act at, or prior**  
11 **to, the time of application.** The examination shall also include a test of the  
12 applicant's ability to read and understand highway signs regulating, warning, and  
13 directing traffic, the applicant's knowledge of traffic laws, and an actual  
14 demonstration of the applicant's ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control  
15 in the operation of a motor vehicle. An applicant for a motorcycle operator's license  
16 shall be required to show his or her ability to operate a motorcycle, in addition to  
17 other requirements of this section. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply  
18 to an applicant who:

19 (a) At the time of application, holds a valid operator's license from another state,  
20 provided that state affords a reciprocal exemption to a Kentucky resident; or

21 (b) Is a citizen of the Commonwealth who has been serving in the United States  
22 military and has allowed his or her operator's license to expire.

23 (3) Any person whose intermediate license or operator's license is denied, suspended, or  
24 revoked for cause shall apply for reinstatement at the termination of the period for  
25 which the license was denied, suspended, or revoked by submitting to the  
26 examination. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to any person whose  
27 license was suspended for failure to meet the conditions described in KRS 186.411

1 when, within one (1) year of suspension, the driving privileges of such individuals  
2 are reinstated.

3 (4) An applicant shall not use an autocycle for road skills testing administered under the  
4 provisions of this section.

5 ➔Section 3. KRS 174.056 is amended to read as follows:

6 (1) The KYTC photo license account is created within the road fund, to be administered  
7 by the Transportation Cabinet. The account shall consist of the portion of fees  
8 directed to the account under KRS 186.531, *Section 1 of this Act*, and any other  
9 proceeds from grants, contributions, appropriations, or other moneys made available  
10 for the purposes of the account.

11 (2) Notwithstanding KRS 45.229, any moneys remaining in the account not expended  
12 at the close of a fiscal year shall not lapse but shall be carried forward to the next  
13 fiscal year.

14 (3) Any interest earnings of the account shall become a part of the account and shall not  
15 lapse.

16 (4) Moneys in the account shall be used for the purposes of verifying, creating, and  
17 distributing secure photo instruction permits, operator's licenses, and personal  
18 identification cards and are hereby appropriated for these purposes.

19 ➔Section 4. This Act takes effect July 1, 2024.