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**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
AMENDMENT MEMO**

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**2003 Assembly Bill 575**

**Assembly Substitute  
Amendment 1**

*Memo published:* February 2, 2004

*Contact:* Philip G. Cardis, Staff Attorney (267-0683)

Under **current law**, a person who applies for a new driver's license must, under most circumstances, demonstrate his or her knowledge of the rules of the road and his or her driving skills in a test administered by the Department of Transportation (DOT). Most drivers' licenses issued by DOT must be renewed every eight years. To renew a license to drive an automobile or a motorcycle, an applicant must pass a test of his or her eyesight. Current law allows the Secretary of DOT to require any person to submit to additional testing to determine incompetency, incapacity, disease, or impairment that may prevent the person from exercising reasonable and ordinary control over a motor vehicle. Under current law, most drivers pay \$15 to take up to three driving skills tests.

**Assembly Substitute Amendment 1**

Under the substitute amendment, the DOT shall examine every person who holds an operator's license and who is at least 75 years of age but less than 85 years of age once every three years. The examination shall consist of a **test of eyesight** (no written or "skills test").

Under the substitute amendment, the DOT shall examine every person who holds an operator's license and who is at least 85 years of age every two years. The examination shall consist of a **test of eyesight** and a **knowledge test** (written test). (The driver "skills test" is not required, but would be optional in the discretion of the DOT.)

Under the substitute amendment, drivers are charged \$15 for each driving skills test that he or she takes (currently, the \$15 would permit up to three potential driving skills tests).

Under the substitute amendment, DOT shall issue a report on the effects of this act on highway safety including the impact on the affected age group's crash rates, violation rates, loss of driving privileges, and related issues. The DOT shall submit the report to the Legislature no later than five years from the effective date of the act.

Under the substitute amendment, DOT shall appoint an advisory council to study the effects of aging and driving ability, identify existing transportation alternatives throughout the state, and examine additional transportation alternatives for older drivers. Members of the council shall be comprised of representatives of organizations involved with issues facing older drivers, providers of services to senior citizens, and research entities. DOT shall submit the study to the Legislature no later than two years after the effective date of the act.

**Legislative History**

On January 29, 2004, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended for adoption Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 by a vote of Ayes, 16; Noes, 0.

The Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 1.

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