



DDS GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF DRIVER SERVICES



[Home](#) | [Internet Services](#) | [Locations](#) | [About Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Careers](#)

Search

GO

[Driver License Information](#)
[Driver Training](#)
[ADAP](#)
[Defensive Driving \(DUI\)](#)
[Teen Drivers](#)
[Commercial Driving](#)
[Forms and Manuals](#)
[Business Partners](#)
[Rules and Regulations](#)

New Year Brings New Laws Concerning State Driver S

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The Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS) will be implementing several legislative changes on January 1, 2009 which may affect your driving privileges. Fees will now be charged for any general knowledge exam (automobile, motorcycle and CDL) and for missing a commercial test. Non-citizens living in Georgia will be able to keep their foreign issued driver's license on a newly-issued Georgia license.

House Bill 1111

House Bill 1111 allows DDS to charge a fee for failed attempts at written tests. Prospective drivers will be charged \$10.00 each time a retest is attempted, providing a good reason to study before a retest. An up-front fee would apply for all knowledge tests that DDS administers including commercial and motorcycle licenses. If the customer passes the test the fee will replace the permit fee for the retest.

Prospective Commercial Driver's must pay a \$50.00 fee prior to making a reservation for a Test. If the customer does not show up for their appointment they will have to pay a new \$50.00 fee to schedule a new appointment. The \$50.00 fee is good for two tests if the customer arrives at the reserved time. Even though CDL road tests require mandatory appointments, many fail to show up for the exam wasting valuable examination time.

In addition, Commercial Driver's must provide a full legal name for the application and may also provide a social security number as a CDL license number. Federal mandates now require DDS to update state records for all CDL applicants and impose mandatory disqualifications in Georgia which were not imposed in previous jurisdictions. Civil penalties for commercial driver violations and commercial employer violations have been enhanced.

Senate Bill 488

Senate Bill 488 allows non-citizens to keep their foreign issued driver's license or identification card when obtaining a non-commercial Georgia license or ID card. Customers applying for a Commercial Driver's License must surrender their out of country license.

A non-citizen who is not a Georgia resident but is visiting or attending school may drive using their foreign issued license from another country plus an International Driver Permit. The International Driver Permit is issued in the home country and translates a foreign issued license to make it understandable for Georgia officials.

For complete driver testing and licensing information, please visit the DDS website www.dds.ga.gov. Many transactions such as implementing a change of address or replacing a lost or stolen license can now be initiated online.

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