

House Bill 72

By: Representatives Mills of the 25th and Bearden of the 68th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to issuance, expiration, and renewal of licenses, so as to provide that examinations
3 for drivers' licenses shall be administered only in the English language; to provide for an
4 exception; to provide a limit on the period for which a temporary license may be issued by
5 examination in a language other than English; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
6 purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Article 2 of Chapter 5 of Title 40 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
10 issuance, expiration, and renewal of licenses, is amended by revising Code Section 40-5-27,
11 relating to examination of applicants for certain drivers' licenses, by adding a new subsection
12 to read as follows:

13 "(e) All written and oral examinations required pursuant to this Code section shall be
14 administered only in the English language; provided, however, that the department may
15 administer examinations to persons eligible for a temporary license pursuant to Code
16 Section 40-5-21.1 in a language other than English."

17 **SECTION 2.**

18 Said article is further amended by revising subsection (a) of Code Section 40-5-21.1, relating
19 to temporary licenses, permits, or special identification cards, and foreign licenses or
20 identification cards as evidence of legal presence in the United States, as follows:

21 "(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, an applicant who presents in person
22 valid documentary evidence of:

- 23 (1) Admission to the United States in a valid, unexpired nonimmigrant status;
24 (2) A pending or approved application for asylum in the United States;
25 (3) Admission into the United States in refugee status;

- 26 (4) An approved application for temporary protected status in the United States;
27 (5) Approved deferred action status;
28 (6) Other federal documentation verified by the United States Department of Homeland
29 Security to be valid documentary evidence of lawful presence in the United States under
30 federal immigration law; or
31 (7) Verification of lawful presence as provided by Code Section 40-5-21.2
32 may be issued a temporary license, permit, or special identification card. Such temporary
33 license, permit, or special identification card shall be valid only during the period of time
34 of the applicant's authorized stay in the United States or five years, whichever occurs first;
35 provided, however, that no person shall, during his or her lifetime, be issued temporary
36 licenses or permits by examination in any language other than English for a total combined
37 period of ten years."

38 **SECTION 3.**

39 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.