VEHICLE AND TRAFFIC LAW OF LIBERIA
Chapter 1. PRELIMINARY PROVISIONS

§1.1. Definition of terms.

§1.2. Application of title.

§1.3. Interpretation.

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§1.1. Definition of terms.

The following words and phrases when used in this title shall, for the purposes of this title, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section except where another definition is expressly provided:

(a) The term "curb" means the vertical or sloping edge along a roadway clearly defining the pavement edge.

(b) The term "driver" applies to a person who pushes, pulls, draws, propels, operates, or supervises the propulsion or operation of a vehicle, or who drives, leads, or rides a horse or draft animal or beast of burden.

(c) The term "highway" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way, paved or unpaved, which is intended for vehicular traffic.

(d) The term "Minister" means the Minister of Justice.

(e) The term "motor vehicle" means a vehicle which is self-propelled by means of an internal combustion, oil compression, electric, steam, or other mechanical or chemical engine or motor.

(f) The term "operator" refers to a person who operates or drives a motor vehicle.

(g) An "owner" is the person, other than a lien holder, who holds the legal title of a vehicle. The term includes a person entitled to the use and possession of a vehicle subject to a security interest in another person, but excludes a lessee under a lease not intended as security.
(h) The term "road" or "roadway" means that portion of a highway or street exclusive of the shoulder.

(i) The term "shoulder" refers to an unpaved path which runs immediately alongside a paved or finished road, and which shall be used for parking or emergency stops and for pedestrians when there is no sidewalk or footpath.

(j) The term "sidewalk" means that portion of a street between the curb line, or the lateral lines of a roadway, and the adjacent property lines, intended for the use of pedestrians.

(k) The term "street" means the entire width between the boundary lines of every way, paved or unpaved, which is intended for vehicular traffic.

(l) The term "traffic court" means any court having jurisdiction over traffic infractions under the provisions of the Judiciary Law.

(m) The term "vehicle" means: (i) any contrivance, whether or not self-propelled, which is designed for the transportation or carriage of persons or things on land, except those which are confined to tracks or rails; (ii) any horse or draft animal or beast of burden, whether mounted or led, and (iii) any tractor or other farm or industrial equipment or machinery when moving under its own power; provided that the term "vehicle" as used in this title shall not be construed to apply to a perambulator or other vehicle not customarily employed for transportation or carriage on the public streets or roads.


§1.2 Application of title.

The provisions of this title shall apply to roads publicly owned or controlled and the operation of vehicles thereon. Subject to the contrary provisions of any contractual agreement by the Government, the provisions of this title shall also apply to roads privately owned or controlled which are open to public use, and to the operation of vehicles on such roads. Private roads not open to public use shall be within the application of this title only in so far as expressly provided by statute.

§1.3. Interpretation.

The provisions of this title shall be so interpreted as to effectuate its general purpose to make uniform and modernize the traffic laws of Liberia.


§1.4. Limitation on local traffic regulations.

No county, township, territory, district created by special charter, city, municipal district, or commonwealth district shall make, promulgate, or enforce any special rule or regulation duplicating or contrary to any provision of this title or to the rules and regulations which may be promulgated in pursuance thereof.


Chapter 2. LICENSES TO OPERATE MOTOR VEHICLES

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§2.85. Renting motor vehicle to another.

Subchapter A. DEFINITIONS

§2.1. Words and phrases defined.

As used in this chapter, the terms herein defined shall have the following meanings:
(a) "Cancellation" means that a license to operate a motor vehicle is annulled and terminated because of some error or defect or because the licensee is no longer entitled to such license, but the cancellation of a license is without prejudice and application for a new license may be made at any time after such cancellation.

(b) A "chauffeur" is (i) a person, other than a driver of heavy vehicles, who is employed by another for the principal purpose of operating a motor vehicle; and (ii) every person who operates a school bus transporting school children or any motor vehicle when in use for the transportation of persons or property for compensation.

(c) The term "conviction" means a final conviction. An unvacated forfeiture of bail or collateral deposited to secure a defendant's appearance in court, the payment of a fine, a plea of guilty, or a finding of guilt on a charge of a traffic violation is equivalent to conviction, regardless of whether the penalty is suspended or probation is granted.

(d) An "operator of heavy vehicles" is a person who drives a motor vehicle weighing 18,000 pounds or more.

(e) A "license to operate motor vehicles" includes an instruction permit, an operator's license, a chauffeur's license, and a license to operate heavy vehicles.

(f) A "nonresident's operating privilege" is the privilege conferred upon a nonresident by the laws of the Republic of Liberia pertaining to the operation by him of a motor vehicle, or the use of a motor vehicle owned by him in the Republic.

(g) An "operator's license" is a license to operate a motor vehicle which is neither a chauffeur's license nor a license to operate heavy vehicles.

(h) "Revocation" means that a license to operate a motor vehicle is terminated and is not to be renewed or restored except as provided in section 2.70 of this title.

(i) "Suspension" means that a license to operate a motor vehicle is temporarily withdrawn but only during the period of such suspension.
Subchapter B. ISSUANCE, EXPIRATION, AND RENEWAL

§2.20. License requirement.

1. Requirement stated. No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted, shall operate any motor vehicle unless such person holds a valid license as an operator, chauffeur, or operator of heavy vehicles. No person shall operate a motor vehicle as a chauffeur unless he holds a valid chauffeur's license, and no person shall operate a heavy vehicle unless he holds a license to operate heavy vehicles.

2. Holding more than one license at the same time. No person shall hold at the same time more than one unexpired license issued pursuant to this chapter. Any person who holds more than one such license shall elect which license he will retain and shall surrender all other licenses to the Minister.


§2.21. Persons exempt from license requirement.

The following persons may operate a motor vehicle without holding a license to operate a motor vehicle issued under the provisions of this chapter:

(a) Any person in the service of the armed forces of the Republic while operating a vehicle on official business within the limits of a Liberian military base or encampment;

(b) A nonresident who has in his immediate possession a valid operator's license issued to him in his home jurisdiction while operating a motor vehicle in the Republic of Liberia only as an operator; such license to be valid for a period not to exceed three months from the date of his last entry into the Republic; provided, however, to operate a heavy duty vehicle as a chauffeur or operator such person must be in possession of a valid Liberian chauffeur's license.
§ 2.22. Persons disqualified from receiving licenses.

No license to operate a motor vehicle shall be issued to any of the following:

(a) To any person under the age of 16 years;
(b) To any person as a chauffeur or operator of heavy vehicles, under the age of 18 years;
(c) To any person as operator, chauffeur, or operator of heavy vehicles whose license has been suspended, during such suspension, nor to any person whose license has been revoked, except as provided in section 2.69 of this title;
(d) To any person as operator, chauffeur, or operator of heavy vehicles who is an habitual drunkard, or is an habitual user of narcotic drugs, or is an habitual user of any other drug to a degree which renders him incapable of safely driving a motor vehicle;
(e) To any person as operator, chauffeur, or operator of heavy vehicles, adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or disease and who has not at the time of application been medically or judicially declared restored to competency;
(f) To any person who is required by this chapter to take an examination, unless such person has successfully passed such examination;
(g) To any person who is required by law to furnish proof of financial responsibility and who has not furnished such proof in the manner prescribed by statute and any lawful rules pertaining thereto;
(h) To any person when the Minister has good cause to believe that the operation of a motor vehicle on the highways by such person would be inimical to public safety or welfare.

§ 2.23. Instruction permit.

Any person who is at least 15 years of age may apply to the Minister for an instruction permit. Any application for an instruction permit shall be accompanied by an application for an operator's license. The Minister may in his discretion, after the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the examination required by section 2.26 of this title
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(d) To any person as operator, chauffeur, or operator of heavy vehicles who is an habitual drunkard, or is an habitual user of narcotic drugs, or is an habitual user of any other drug to a degree which renders him incapable of safely driving a motor vehicle;

(e) To any person as operator, chauffeur, or operator of heavy vehicles, adjudged to be afflicted with or suffering from any mental disability or disease and who has not at the time of application been medically or judicially declared restored to competency;

(f) To any person who is required by this chapter to take an examination, unless such person has successfully passed such examination;

(g) To any person who is required by law to furnish proof of financial responsibility and who has not furnished such proof in the manner prescribed by statute and any lawful rules pertaining thereto;

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