



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Motor Vehicles
2300 West Broad Street

D. B. Smit
Commissioner

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September 22, 2006

Members of the General Assembly
Division of Legislative Automated Systems
General Assembly Building, Suite 660
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Members of the General Assembly:

On behalf of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, I respectfully submit the following report on the agency's efforts to address the impact of the aging of the Commonwealth's population in accordance with House Bill 110. The report addresses five specific areas in accordance with guidance from the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

The agency looks forward to working to continue to address the needs of Virginia's aging population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D.B. Smit".

D.B. Smit

cc: The Honorable Pierce Homer

**Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles
2006 Session House Bill 110 Report**

Background

HB 110 (2006 Session) amended Va. Code § 2.2-5510 to require that each state agency include in its strategic plan “*an analysis of the impact that the aging of the population will have on its ability to deliver services and a description of how the agency is responding to these changes.*” The bill provides further that “*based on guidance from the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, each agency shall report by October 1 of each year to the Governor and to the General Assembly its progress for addressing the impact of the aging of the population in at least five specific actions.*” This report addresses the second requirement relative to the five reporting requirements outlined by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources.

Reporting Requirements

1. **To the extent such data is available, the number of persons who received services from the agency in the past fiscal year who fell into each of the following age ranges: 65-74; 75-84; and 85 and older. If the agency can provide data that compares such numbers to numbers of senior citizens served in the past, please do so. If the agency lacks specific information about the numbers of senior citizens it serves, but has other evidence indicating that it is serving more or fewer senior citizens than it has in the past, please describe the basis for that estimation.**

Driver’s Licenses

Age	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
65-74	366,550	375,252	377,598	385,631	395,399	403,590
75-84	207,241	214,538	218,356	223,126	229,955	229,750
85+	35,940	38,801	41,581	44,409	48,141	49,973

Commercial Driver’s Licenses

Age	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006
65-74	9,940	10,843	11,514	12,466	13,595	14,666
75-84	1,067	1,259	1,412	1,614	1,885	2,151
85+	12	20	27	34	43	51

- 2. Identify the agency services that are utilized by senior citizens 65 and older in significant numbers. Indicate whether the agency has the capacity at present to serve all interested seniors or whether the demand for certain services exceeds the agency's capacity. If so, does the agency maintain waiting lists for services?**

DMV provides driver's licensing and vehicle services to senior citizens, as DMV does for all Virginians. The department does not maintain a waiting list for these services. The department requires senior citizens ages 80 and older to renew driver's licenses in person at a DMV customer service center and pass a vision screening or present a vision report from their eye care practitioner. This requirement is administered in accordance with Va. Code § 46.2-330 which prohibits DMV from renewing any driver's license or learner's permit issued to an applicant age 80 and older unless the applicant appears in person and either (i) passes a vision examination or (ii) presents a report of a vision examination, made within 90 days prior thereto by an ophthalmologist or optometrist, indicating that the applicant's vision meets or exceeds the standards contained in Virginia Code § 46.2-311.

Furthermore, the department allows citizens who are age 70 and older to exchange a valid Virginia driver's license for a photo-identification card at no fee. This is administered in accordance with Va. Code § 46.2-345.

- 3. Identify current agency programs, specifically designed to serve seniors 65 and older, that fall into any of the following six categories: Health Care/Wellness; Education; Public Safety; Recreation; Financial Security (including Housing); and Transportation.**

The following two programs serve seniors in the categories of Health Care, Public Safety, and Transportation.

The Medical Review Program ensures the safety of Virginians on the road. The primary focus is on drivers, regardless of age, who have a physical or mental condition that impairs their ability to safely operate a motor vehicle. Many of the drivers reviewed are senior citizens who have health concerns and issues. In addition to self-reporting by drivers, the department relies on information provided by licensed medical professionals, law enforcement, judges, relatives, concerned citizens, and other reliable sources to identify drivers who may be unable to safely operate a vehicle. The department reviews each case before taking action. The department's goal is to allow individuals to drive for as long as they can safely operate a vehicle.

DMV supports the Virginia Department for the Aging in the administration of the Virginia GrandDriver program. GrandDriver is an educational resource designed to provide Virginians with information and resources to stay safe and mobile as they age.

- 4. Identify the extent to which your agency provides “consumer-oriented” publications and websites online that are designed to be “senior-friendly.” If the information you currently provide is not readily accessible to seniors, identify any steps your agency is taking to improve accessibility.**

The department provides consumer oriented publications for issues facing Virginia’s seniors. These include the *Medical Fitness for Safe Driving* pamphlet, the *Mature Drivers Page* on the DMV website, www.dmvNOW.com, and the www.GrandDriver.net website maintained by the Virginia Department for the Aging. These resources include information regarding the medical review process, safe-driving tips, an online assessment for seniors, and information on resources available to seniors to maintain mobility.

The department is currently reviewing its website to identify potential accessibility improvements, such as navigation and increased font sizes for ease of reading.

- 5. Describe any other services or programs that the agency has implemented or plans to implement in the future to address the impact of the aging of Virginia’s population.**

The department is in the process of digitizing files for the medical review process. This will allow staff to more efficiently access and file information. As a result, staff can more promptly respond to citizen inquiries and reviews. Additionally, the department is reviewing projected growth in Virginia’s aging population to ensure our resources are adequate to meet the projected increase in demand for services.

Conclusion

DMV will continue to monitor the impact of the aging of Virginia’s population on our ability to deliver services. Our efforts to educate and assist Virginia’s aging population will continue to be an important part of our service delivery. We look forward to continuing to address these needs in the future.