

**HB**

**166**

<TARGET><BILL>HB 166</BILL><SUBJECT>HB  
166</SUBJECT><COMM>HSTA29</COMM></TARGET>




# Representative Adam Wool

Alaska State Legislature

District 5 Fairbanks

Chena Ridge • College • University West • Geist • UAF Campus • South Van Horn  
Cripple Creek • Richardson • Parks Highway • Airport • Dale • Lakeview

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** January 19, 2016  
**From:** Representative Adam Wool   
**To:** Representative Bob Lynn, Chair, House State Affairs Committee  
**Re:** Hearing Request for House Bill 166

I respectfully request that House Bill 166 concerning the waiving of testing requirements for people with foreign driver's licenses. I have enclosed the original bill and supporting documents. Please contact me or David Dunsmore of my staff at 465-4976 if you have any questions or concerns with this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.



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## House Bill 166

### Driver's License Reciprocity

#### House State Affairs Hearing Request Packet Table of Contents

- 1: House Bill 166 Original Version A (1 page)
- 2: Sponsor Statement for HB 166 (1 page)
- 3: Legislative Research report
- 4: Excerpts from American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators "Foreign Reciprocity Resource Guide" (13 pages)
- 5: Letter of support from Rachel Abbott



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## House Bill 166: Driver's License Reciprocity Sponsor Statement

House Bill 166 will give the Department of Administration the discretion to waive testing requirements for people with driver's licenses from foreign countries if those countries have adequate testing requirements. This bill will not only help people who move to Alaska from foreign countries, but it will also assist Alaskans living overseas because many countries will only waive testing requirements for Alaskans if Alaska does so for their license holders. HB 166 was requested by an Alaskan family living abroad who are having to pay for expensive testing to get a foreign license, even though that country waives testing requirements for residents of many other states.

Currently Alaska recognizes foreign driver's licenses and holders of these licenses drive freely on Alaskan roads, but anyone who will be driving in Alaska for more than 90 days is required to get an Alaskan license. Alaska waives the road testing requirements for anyone with a license from another American state or a Canadian province or territory, but current law does not allow any waiver for holders of non-Canadian foreign licenses.

Most states already have this authority. At least 41 other states waive testing requirements for people with license from at least one country other than Canada. At least 37 states have formal reciprocal agreements with at least one country other than Canada to allow their licensees to have testing waived in that country.

Current statutes give the Department authority to negotiate agreements with foreign jurisdictions for enforcement of licensing rules, and giving the Department the authority to waive road testing will enable the Department to enter into reciprocal agreements to allow Alaskans living abroad to have testing requirements waived for them. In many countries the driver's licensing process can be much more expensive than it is in Alaska, for example in France the mandatory driving school can cost thousands of dollars. Allowing Alaskans living overseas to have this testing waived would relieve them of a significant financial burden.

Foreign license holders would still be required to pass a vision test, a written test, and (if they are over 21) an alcohol awareness test. This bill would not allow anyone who was otherwise ineligible for an Alaskan driver's license to receive one. The authority granted by this bill would be purely discretionary, and the Department would have complete discretion to choose not to recognize licenses from any country for any reason.



# LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICES

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## Research Brief

TO: Representative Adam Wool  
FROM: Tim Spengler, Legislative Analyst  
DATE: April 14, 2015  
RE: Waiving Driver License Testing Requirements for Individuals with Foreign Licenses  
*LRS Report 15.354*

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***You asked if any states waive some or all driver license testing requirements for individuals with foreign (other than Canadian) licenses. Also, you wished to know if any states have reciprocal licensing agreements with other countries, again excluding Canada.<sup>1</sup>***

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Using a 2009 in-depth compilation by the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) and a search of Westlaw and state and diplomatic websites, we identified 41 states—not including Alaska—that allow for full or partial waivers for individuals with licenses from certain countries other than Canada seeking state licensure.<sup>2</sup> In the great majority of these states, drivers with German licenses are allowed these waivers. In a fewer number of states, individuals with licenses from France, Italy, Mexico (commercial driver's license only), and the Republic of South Korea are also granted waivers.

A number of states have full or partial driver license reciprocity agreements with foreign countries, primarily Germany and France.<sup>3</sup> Germany has reciprocity agreements for license exchange with 37 states—not including Alaska—exempting drivers from taking the road and/or written test. A list of these states is available at the U.S. German Embassy website at [http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/drivers\\_license/](http://germany.usembassy.gov/acs/drivers_license/). France has full or partial reciprocity agreements with the following 16 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, and Virginia.<sup>4</sup>

We hope this is helpful. If you have questions or need additional information, please let us know.

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<sup>1</sup> You asked that Canada not be included in this report as reciprocity between it and the United States is commonplace.

<sup>2</sup> The AAMVA compilation, "Foreign Reciprocity Resource Guide," is accessible at <http://www.aamva.org/International-Licensing/>. The AAMVA is a nonprofit organization that develops model programs in motor vehicle administration, law enforcement, and highway safety. The association also serves as an information clearinghouse in these areas, and acts as the international spokesman for these interests (<http://www.aamva.org/default.aspx>). According to the guide, the 34 states that allow waivers for individuals with certain foreign licenses are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. We also identified seven other states that allow waivers: Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Texas. While we believe our review to be thorough, it is possible that we missed some relevant state measures.

<sup>3</sup> These licensing agreements can change frequently, so the lists should be considered somewhat fluid. The Foreign Reciprocity Resource Guide also has a section on Driver's License Reciprocity Agreements (DLRA) with examples of memoranda of understanding (MOU) between various jurisdictions, such as Iowa and France, Maine and Quebec, and Washington State and Germany, as well as a model MOU.

<sup>4</sup> We identified states with reciprocal driver license agreements with France from a number of sources including the U.S. State Department, <http://photos.state.gov/libraries/france/45994/pdf/toulouse-driving.pdf>, and Angliointo, a global expat network, <http://usa.angloinfo.com/transport/driving-licences/exchanging-a-licence/ahttp://ielanguages.com/license.html>.

# Foreign Reciprocity Resource Guide

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Prepared by: AAMVA Foreign Reciprocity Resource Guide  
Working Group  
September 2009



American Association of  
Motor Vehicle Administrators

## SECTION 4

### AUTHORIZATION FOR RECIPROCITY



Every jurisdiction must have legal authorization to enter into reciprocal licensing arrangements with foreign entities. Some have formal licensing laws that detail the type of agreement a licensing agency may enter into with a foreign country. Others have broad enabling laws that leave the details of these agreements to the agency. In analyzing the state legislation and policies that authorize jurisdictions to enter into these agreements, the working group found three main categories:

1. Authority that allows jurisdictions to serve foreign drivers without having reciprocal agreements.
2. Legislation that grants jurisdictional agencies broad discretion when entering into agreements with foreign jurisdictions.
3. Legislation that grants limited authority to agencies when entering into agreements with foreign jurisdictions. For example, a jurisdiction may be authorized to waive testing for drivers from a foreign jurisdiction only if the foreign jurisdiction waives testing for their drivers.

This section includes a description of each category followed by an excerpt from a state statute that best illustrates the category.

#### LICENSING AGENCIES THAT SERVE FOREIGN DRIVERS WITHOUT RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS

Some jurisdictions do not have specific laws that authorize them to enter into reciprocal agreements with other countries. Each of these jurisdictions does, however, allow drivers from other countries to exchange their license without taking one or more of the licensing exams. Essentially, the jurisdictions combine enabling legislation and treaty excerpts into one operational process.

##### Example of a Licensing Agency Serving Foreign Drivers without a Reciprocal Agreement Arizona

Statute	Description
Arizona Revised Statutes § 28-3164C.	The Department shall examine a person who holds a driver license issued by another country and who applies for an initial license in this state as an original applicant, except that the department may waive an actual demonstration of the ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the operation of a motor vehicle if the person applies for a class D or G license and appears to meet the department's medical qualifications and if the out of state license is not revoked or is not expired for more than one year.

**LICENSING AGENCIES WITH FULL AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS**

Some jurisdictions have broad enabling laws that offer few conditions on the agreements into which the agencies may enter. They are typically brief statements in the jurisdiction’s licensing laws or provisions within the agency’s enabling legislation. This offers the agency the most flexibility when entering into agreements with other countries.

Example of a Licensing Agency with Full Authority to Enter Into Reciprocal Agreements Arkansas	
Statute	Description
Arkansas Code Annotated § 27-16-809	The Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration is authorized to enter into driver license agreements or other cooperative arrangements with foreign countries for the reciprocal recognition of drivers' licenses.

**LICENSING AGENCIES WITH LIMITED AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO RECIPROCAL AGREEMENTS**

Some jurisdictions have enabling laws with specific provisions that the agency is required to include in any agreements with other countries. The provisions range from very specific to general guidelines. For example, Massachusetts requires a foreign government to meet Massachusetts’ minimum age requirements, ensure adequate testing standards, exchange standards, requires exchange of driver history and requires the exchange of a physical driver license.

As an example of more general guidelines, the Michigan Secretary of State may only enter into an agreement with a foreign county that extends

equal privileges to individuals licensed by Michigan.

Example of a Licensing Agency with Limited Authority to Enter Into Reciprocal Agreements Michigan	
Statute	Description
Michigan Vehicle Code § 257.302a	[Michigan Secretary of State may enter into an agreement with a foreign country if] all of the following conditions have been satisfied: (a) The secretary of state determines that the standards of the other country for licensing operators correspond substantially to those of this state and that the other country extends the same privileges to persons licensed to operate vehicles by this state. (b) The secretary of state and the other country have exchanged letters confirming the reciprocal extension of privileges to operate vehicles.

The following pages contain examples of enabling legislation, submitted by jurisdictions.

contact information. A sample response is on page 54 of this section.

### 3. Jurisdictional information exchange.

Exchanging information between the jurisdictions is an essential part of the process. This allows each jurisdiction to assess the other's driving standards. The following information **should** be requested:

- ✓ Driver and vehicle legislation and regulations;
- ✓ Contact name and address for the department that maintains driver records;
- ✓ Sample(s) of all valid driver's license(s) with a description of the security features;
- ✓ Identification requirements for driver's license applicants;
- ✓ Information contained on or in the driver's license;
- ✓ Term of license validity;
- ✓ Medical standards;
- ✓ Minimum age requirements for driving;
- ✓ License classes and condition codes;
- ✓ Description of license classifications to be exchanged;
- ✓ Unique traffic conditions that may be encountered in the foreign jurisdiction;
- ✓ Training requirements for beginner drivers;
- ✓ Qualifications for professional driving instructors;
- ✓ Knowledge test overview;
- ✓ Road test—overview;
- ✓ Road test components;
- ✓ Driver examiner training;
- ✓ Driver control programs; and
- ✓ A list of foreign driver's licenses that are accepted for exchange.

In addition to the above, the jurisdiction receiving the request **may** ask for the following information for their own review:

- ✓ An overview of the driver licensing system, including:
  - Licensing requirements for mature/senior drivers (age, vision and medical testing);
  - Driver improvement systems;
  - Reciprocity laws, processes and agreements;
- ✓ License classes and condition codes,
- ✓ Official Driver's Handbook;
- ✓ Samples of all valid driver's licenses;
- ✓ A description of the driver education program, including:
  - Student textbook;
  - In-class instructor's manual; and
  - In-vehicle instructor's manual.
- ✓ Road test scoring criteria;
- ✓ Road test marking guides; and
- ✓ Any other information requested by a jurisdiction.

### 4. The jurisdictions assess and compare their driver's licensing processes.

Each jurisdiction must review the other jurisdiction's licensing processes to ensure compatibility. As part of this review, the information received under Section 3 should be assessed.

A sample due diligence<sup>30</sup> worksheet is on page 56 of this section.

### 5. The jurisdictions decide.

After the review, each jurisdiction should address all concerns with the other jurisdiction and request clarification and/or additional information.

### 6. The jurisdictions negotiate and finalize the Driver's License Reciprocity Agreement.

If the systems are well-matched, an offer to negotiate a DLRA is made.

The jurisdictions must clearly outline all conditions under which driver's licenses will be verified and validated. This must include whether or not surrendered driver's licenses will be destroyed, held or returned to the issuing jurisdiction. A sample verification form is on page 59 of this section.

**7. The jurisdictions draft a reciprocity agreement.**

When the terms have been approved, a draft reciprocity agreement is prepared. A sample MOU is on page 60 of this section.

Although a sample is provided, each agreement must be modified to meet the specific needs of the jurisdictions entering into the agreement. Each jurisdiction is responsible for verifying their legal authority for a reciprocity agreement and its implementation.

**8. The jurisdictions implement the reciprocity agreement.**

To effectively implement the reciprocity agreement, each jurisdiction must communicate the terms and conditions to all third parties affected by the agreement (e.g., service providers, stakeholders and enforcement agencies).

**LESSONS LEARNED**

The following items are lessons learned to insure the effectiveness of the DLRA which may not necessarily be stated in the MOU.

**1. Develop a driver's license verification process.**

A driver's license verification process between the reciprocating jurisdictions is essential. It is integral to reducing the number of fraudulent, invalid, counterfeited

and altered driver's licenses that are exchanged.

**2. Provide details of driver's license security features.**

Both jurisdictions must identify and describe the security features of their driver's license. Any security changes or enhancements should be communicated to the other jurisdiction to help reduce acceptance of fraudulent, counterfeited and altered licenses.

**3. Develop a process for disposition of exchanged driver's licenses.**

Both jurisdictions must agree on whether surrendered licenses will be destroyed, held or returned to the originating jurisdiction.

**4. Updating contact information.**

To ensure effective communication, contact information should continuously be updated by both jurisdictions.

The following pages contain examples of informal agreements and MOUs currently in force, submitted by jurisdictions and reviewed by the AAMVA Foreign Reciprocity Working Group. The examples of agreements and MOUs offer a starting point for AAMVA jurisdictions that are drafting a driver's license reciprocity agreement with a foreign country, Canadian province/territory or state.

**Table 1 – Wavier for Testing Requirements**

Table 1 contains questions 1, 2 (for U.S. Jurisdictions) and 8 (for Canadian Jurisdictions) of the questionnaire. Question 1 is answered within the first column and pertains to waiving testing requirements for driver license holders from foreign countries, other than the US and Canada. Question 2 and 8 is answered within the second column and pertains to requirements waived when issuing a driver license to a transfer applicant from another US jurisdiction and the US Department of State (for U.S. jurisdictions) or from another Canadian jurisdiction (for Canadian jurisdictions).

Table 1 Wavier for Testing Requirements	Does Your Jurisdiction Waive Some or All of the Testing Requirements for Driver License Holders from Foreign Countries, Other than the US and Canada?					What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant from Another US/Canadian Jurisdiction and the US Dept. of State?				
	Yes	No	Noncommercial	Commercial	Countries	Knowledge	Driving	Vision	Medical	GDL
Alabama	X		X		Germany	X	X			
Alaska		X	N/A	N/A	N/A		X			
Arizona	X		X		Germany	X	X	X	X	X
Arkansas	X		X		Germany, France	X	X		X	X
California		X	N/A	N/A	N/A		X			
Colorado	X		X		Germany, France	X	X			
Connecticut	X		X			X	X			
Delaware	X		X		Germany, France	X	X			
District of Columbia	X		X			X	X			X
Florida	X		X		*	X	X			
Georgia		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			X
Hawaii		X	N/A	N/A	N/A		X			
Idaho	X		X		Germany		X			X
Illinois	X		X		France, Germany, Italy		X			
Indiana	X		X				X			
Iowa	X		X		Germany	X	X			
Kansas		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			X
Kentucky		X	N/A	N/A	N/A					
Louisiana		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X		X	
Maine		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			X
Maryland	X		X		U.S. Territories, France	X	X			
Massachusetts	X		X		Germany	X	X			
Michigan	X		X		Germany	X	X			X
Minnesota	X		X		*		X			
Mississippi		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			
Missouri	X			X	Mexico (CDL)	X	X			
Montana	X		X	X	Mexico (CDL)	X	X			
Nebraska	X		X		Germany, Mexico	X	X			

Table 1 Wavier for Testing Requirements	Does Your Jurisdiction Waive Some or All of the Testing Requirements for Driver License Holders from Foreign Countries, Other than the US and Canada?					What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant from Another US/Canadian Jurisdiction and the US Dept. of State?				
	Yes	No	Noncommercial	Commercial	Countries	Knowledge	Driving	Vision	Medical	GDL
Nevada		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			
New Hampshire	X					X	X			
New Jersey	X		X			X	X	X		X
New Mexico		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			
New York		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			
North Carolina		X	N/A	N/A	N/A		X			
North Dakota		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			X
Ohio	X		X		*		X			
Oklahoma	X		X		Germany	X	X			X
Oregon	X		X		Germany		X			
Pennsylvania	X		X		Germany, France	X	X	X	X	X
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island		X	N/A	N/A	N/A			X		X
South Carolina	X		X		*	X	X			X
South Dakota	X		X		Germany	X	X			X
Tennessee	X		X		Germany	X	X	X		X
Texas		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X			
Utah	X		X		Germany, France	X				
Vermont	X		X		Mexico (CDL only)	X	X		X	
Virginia	X		X		Germany, France	X	X			
Washington	X		X		Germany	X	X		X	
West Virginia	X		X		Germany	X	X			X
Wisconsin	X		X		Germany	X	X			
Wyoming	X		X		Germany		X			
Alberta	X		X		*	X	X			
British Columbia	X		X			X	X			
Manitoba	X		X			X	X			
New Brunswick	X		X			X	X	X	X	
Newfoundland	X		X			X	X	X		
Northwest Territory	X		X	X		X	X			
Nova Scotia	X		X			X	X			
Nunavut		X	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	X	X		X
Ontario	X		X			X	X			
Prince Edward Island	X		X			X	X			
Quebec	X		X			X	X	X		
Saskatchewan	X		X			X	X	X		
Yukon Territory	X		X			X	X			
Summary	47	17	45	3	Germany	50	60	10	7	18

Table 1 Wavier for Testing Requirements	Does Your Jurisdiction Waive Some or All of the Testing Requirements for Driver License Holders from Foreign Countries, Other than the US and Canada?				What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant from Another US/Canadian Jurisdiction and the US Dept. of State?					
	Yes	No	Noncommercial	Commercial	Countries	Knowledge	Driving	Vision	Medical	GDL
<p><b>Does Your Jurisdiction Waive Some or All of the Testing Requirements for Driver License Holders from Foreign Countries, Other Than the US and Canada?</b></p> <p>Of the jurisdictions that responded to the questionnaire the majority of jurisdictions waive some or all of the testing requirements for driver license holders from foreign countries, other than the US and Canada.</p>	<p><b>If Yes, From What Countries is a Driver License Exchanged?</b></p> <p>Of the jurisdictions that responded to the questionnaire the majority of jurisdictions exchange a driver license from Germany.</p>									
<p><b>If Yes, What Class of Driver License is Exchanged?</b></p> <p>Of the jurisdictions that responded to the questionnaire 67% of jurisdictions exchange a noncommercial driver license and only 4% exchange a commercial driver license.</p>	<p><b>What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant From Another US Jurisdiction and the US Dept. of State?</b></p> <p>Of the jurisdictions that responded to the questionnaire most jurisdictions waive the driving requirement when issuing a driver license to a transfer applicant from another US jurisdiction and the US Dept. of State. Some jurisdictions waive the knowledge requirement and a few waive the GDL requirement.</p>									
<p><b>Legend:</b> (-) No Response / (N/A) Not Applicable or Not Available / (*) See Comments</p>										

**Notes for Table 1:**

**Florida:** Germany, France, Taiwan

**Minnesota:** Germany (N/C) Mexico (Comm.)

**Ohio:** Germany, France, Japan

**South Carolina:** Germany, France, Mexico (CDL only)


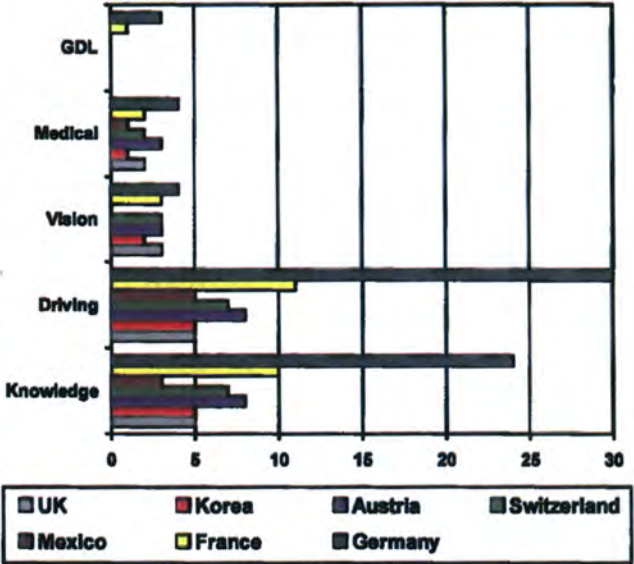
**Alberta:** Austria, Belgium, Germany, Japan, US, Switzerland, Korea, UK, France

**Table 3 – Requirements Waived for Other Countries**

Table 3 contains questions 6 and 7 for U.S. jurisdictions and questions 12 and 13 for Canadian jurisdictions. Questions 6 and 12 are answered within the first set of columns and ask what requirements they waive when issuing a driver license to a transfer applicant from a foreign country, other than Canada (for U.S. jurisdictions) or U.S. (for Canadian jurisdictions). Questions 7 and 13 are answered in the last column and ask what countries they waive these requirements for.

Table 3 Requirements Waived - Countries	What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant From a Foreign Country, Other Than Canada (for U.S. jurisdictions) /U.S. (for Canadian jurisdictions)					
	Knowledge	Driving	Vision	Medical	GDL	Countries Waived
Alabama	X	X				Germany
Alaska	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Arizona	X	X	X	X	X	Germany
Arkansas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
California	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Colorado	X	X				France, Germany
Connecticut	X	X				France, Germany
Delaware	X	X				France, Germany
District of Columbia		X				All foreign jurisdictions
Florida		X				*
Georgia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hawaii	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Idaho		X			X	Germany
Illinois		X				France, Germany and Italy*
Indiana		X				
Iowa	X	X				Germany, drives 18+
Kansas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kentucky	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Louisiana	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maine	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Maryland	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Massachusetts	X	X				Germany
Michigan	X	X				Germany
Minnesota		X				Germany
Mississippi		X				N/A
Missouri	X	X				Mexico (CDL only)
Montana	X	X				Mexico (CDL only)
Nebraska		X				Germany, Mexico
Nevada	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New Hampshire	X	X				France

Table 3 Requirements Waived - Countries	What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant From a Foreign Country, Other Than Canada (for U.S. jurisdictions) /U.S. (for Canadian jurisdictions)					
	Knowledge	Driving	Vision	Medical	GDL	Countries Waived
New Jersey		X				*
New Mexico	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
New York	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Carolina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
North Dakota	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ohio	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	France, Germany, Japan (driving), Mexico
Oklahoma	X	X			X	Germany
Oregon		X				Germany (only drivers with German DL)
Pennsylvania	X	X	X	X	X	France
Puerto Rico	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rhode Island	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Carolina	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Dakota	X	X				Germany (knowledge and driving test waived)
Tennessee		X				Germany
Texas	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Utah	X					France, Germany
Vermont	X	X		X		Mexico (CDL only)
Virginia	X	X				France, Germany
Washington	X	X				Germany
West Virginia	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	X	X				Germany
Wyoming	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alberta	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
British Columbia	X	X				Austria, Germany, Japan, Switzerland, South Korea
Manitoba	X	X				Korea, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, UK (except N. Ireland)
New Brunswick	X	X	X	X		*
Newfoundland	X	X	X			Germany, UK, Austria, Switzerland
Northwest Territory	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nova Scotia	X	X				Germany
Nunavut	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ontario	X	X		X		Japan, Korea, Germany, Austria
Prince Edward Island	X	X				Austria, Germany, Switzerland
Quebec	X	X	X			*
Saskatchewan	X	X	X			Germany, Austria, Switzerland, UK, South Korea
Yukon Territory	X	X				Germany
Summary	28	40	6	5	4	Germany is the most common

Table 3 Requirements Waived - Countries	What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant From a Foreign Country, Other Than Canada (for U.S. jurisdictions) /U.S. (for Canadian jurisdictions)					Countries Waived
	Knowledge	Driving	Vision	Medical	GDL	
<p><b>What Requirements Do You Waive When Issuing a Driver License to a Transfer Applicant from a Foreign Country, other than Canada/U.S?</b></p>  <p>Of the jurisdictions that responded to the questionnaire, most of them waive the driving test requirement and the knowledge test requirement when issuing a driver license to a transfer applicant from a foreign country, other than Canada (for U.S. jurisdictions)/U.S. (for Canadian jurisdictions). Very few waive vision, medical tests and GDL.</p>						<p><b>Countries U.S and Canadian Jurisdictions Waive Requirements For</b></p>  <p>Of the jurisdictions that waive requirements when issuing a driver license to a transfer applicant from a foreign country, many of them waive the driving and knowledge test requirement for Germany. Some of the jurisdictions waive the driving and knowledge test requirement for France.</p>
<p><b>Legend:</b> (-) No Response / (N/A) Not Applicable or Not Available / (*) See Comments</p>						

**Notes for Table 3:**

**Florida:** France - req only vision, medical, Germany - req only vision, written, medical, Taiwan - req only vision, written, medical

**Illinois:** Waive written and driving exam, but the applicant must pass vision test.

**New Jersey:** July 16, 1997 Members of the United Nations Convention on Road Traffic, and the Convention of Inter-American Automotive Traffic (Both ratified by the US). Lists over one hundred countries

**New Brunswick:** Countries include: Austria, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands (Holland), New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales

**Quebec:** Countries include: Belgium, France, Japan, Republic of Korea, Great Britain (excluding N. Ireland), Switzerland, Germany, Austria, Netherland, Turkey

Rachel Abbott  
Les Forgettes  
35760 Saint Gregoire  
FRANCE  
March 30, 2015

David Dunsmore  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Rep. Adam Wool

Dear Mr. Dunsmore,

I am a life-long Alaskan who has recently moved to France for 2 years for my husband's postdoctoral position at the University of Rennes, with the intention of returning to Alaska. I am writing in regards to drivers license reciprocity between Alaska and France, although my request is applicable to other Alaskans who live abroad and need foreign drivers licenses.

After one year if residency in France, foreigner drivers are required to obtain a French drivers license. Unfortunately, this a very complicated, lengthy, and expensive process, even for the French: a minimum of 20 hours driving school (a minimum of \$1500), extensive theoretical and practical tests spanning 6 months, multiple visits to the prefecture for proof of legitimacy of steps taken, and translation fees starting at \$50 an hour (fees then for driving school would total at least \$1000 in addition to the school fees). It is evident that to obtain a French drivers license one must undergo extremely rigorous testing.

The U.S. Embassy in France's website explains that some states allow for a license exchange; i.e. if that state acknowledges a French drivers license, France will acknowledge that state's license. I am asking for the necessary steps to be taken on Alaska's side to allow for French drivers licenses to be accepted as valid in Alaska. But to reach more people, I suggest a bill that allows for reciprocity with foreign drivers licenses in Alaska. This provision to allow for an exchange of licensees will significantly benefit all Alaskans who live abroad, preventing them to undergo time-intensive and costly testing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Abbott

## Nancy Manly

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**From:** Nancy Manly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 20, 2016 12:51 PM  
**To:** amy.erickson@alaska.gov  
**Subject:** Question on HB166 DRIVERS' LICENSES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

1/20/2016

Hi Amy:

Rep Wool is asking for a hearing on HB166 DRIVERS' LICENSES FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES. I just spoke with our legal services and they say that your department already has the statutory authority 28.05.011(b) to allow reciprocity to waive road testing requirements for holders of driver's licenses from foreign countries so this bill doesn't appear to be needed. Do you agree and is your department willing to allow reciprocity with other foreign countries besides Canada? Apparently Alaska already recognizes foreign driver's licenses and holders of these licenses to drive freely on Alaska roads for up to 90 days – just not longer than 90 days.

Also, will you send me a PDF of the motor vehicle regulations or a LINK to them? Thanks.

Nancy Manly, Chief of Staff and  
House State Affairs Committee Aide *for*  
**Representative Bob Lynn**  
**House District 26**  
907-465-2794 Fax: 907-465-4316

Constituent who's family  
Living in Paris.

16.55



# Representative Adam Wool

Alaska State Legislature

District 5 Fairbanks

Chena Ridge • College • University West • Geist • UAF Campus • South Van Horn  
Cripple Creek • Richardson • Parks Highway • Airport • Dale • Lakeview

CaupDMV

269-5559

45.25

465-4976

## House Bill 166: Driver's License Reciprocity

### Sponsor Statement

ISSUE IS -

Can't this  
be done by  
Regulation

House Bill 166 will give the Department of Administration the discretion to waive testing requirements for people with driver's licenses from foreign countries if those countries have adequate testing requirements. This bill will not only help people who move to Alaska from foreign countries, but it will also assist Alaskans living overseas because many countries will only waive testing requirements for Alaskans if Alaska does so for their license holders. HB 166 was requested by an Alaskan family living abroad who are having to pay for expensive testing to get a foreign license, even though that country waives testing requirements for residents of many other states.

IF that country  
has proper procedures

Currently Alaska recognizes foreign driver's licenses and holders of these licenses drive freely on Alaskan roads, but anyone who will be driving in Alaska for more than 90 days is required to get an Alaskan license. Alaska waives the road testing requirements for anyone with a license from another American state or a Canadian province or territory, but current law does not allow any waiver for holders of non-Canadian foreign licenses.

Germany  
&  
France

Most states already have this authority. At least 41 other states waive testing requirements for people with license from at least one country other than Canada. At least 37 states have formal reciprocal agreements with at least one country other than Canada to allow their licensees to have testing waived in that country.

Help Alaskans

Current statutes give the Department authority to negotiate agreements with foreign jurisdictions for enforcement of licensing rules, and giving the Department the authority to waive road testing will enable the Department to enter into reciprocal agreements to allow Alaskans living abroad to have testing requirements waived for them. In many countries the driver's licensing process can be much more expensive than it is in Alaska, for example in France the mandatory driving school can cost thousands of dollars. Allowing Alaskans living overseas to have this testing waived would relieve them of a significant financial burden.

State  
Authority

Foreign license holders would still be required to pass a vision test, a written test, and (if they are over 21) an alcohol awareness test. This bill would not allow anyone who was otherwise ineligible for an Alaskan driver's license to receive one. The authority granted by this bill would be purely discretionary, and the Department would have complete discretion to choose not to recognize licenses from any country for any reason.

DMV Erickson