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TITLE: An Evaluation of the Drive Test as an Examination Requirement for Drivers Previously Licensed in Another State

DATE: December 1973

AUTHOR(S): David M. Harrington

REPORT NUMBER: 44

NTIS NUMBER: PB-226849/AS

FUNDING SOURCE: Departmental Budget

PROTECT OBTECTIVE:

To determine if waiving the drive test for original applicants previously licensed in another state would be detrimental to their driving records.

SUMMARY:

During one time period, 15,102 out-of-state applicants were given the drive test as usual. During another time period, 23,647 such applicants had their drive test waived. Driver record data were collected for the six-month period subsequent to the date when the drive test was (or would have been) administered. There were no significant differences between the groups on numbers of accidents, fatal and injury accidents, or convictions.

The results did not support differential licensing standards for different age groups or for different states.

Approximately 8% of those given a drive test failed on their first attempt. Almost all eventually passed. Eight months after the study period, 97.74% of the waiver group were licensed, as opposed to 95.84% of the test group, so that the drive test had only a slight screening effect.

Elimination of the drive test requirement for out-of-state applicants would save 198,000 drive tests per year for an annual savings of \$381,000.

IMPLEMENTATION STATUS OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

The recommendation to eliminate the drive test requirement for out-of-state applicants was implemented by DMV at the end of 1973.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

None.