

HOUSE BILL No. 2129

By Committee on Transportation

1-28

9 AN ACT relating to driver's licenses; concerning the classes thereof;
10 amending K.S.A. 8-234b and repealing the existing section.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. K.S.A. 8-234b is hereby amended to read as follows: 8-
14 234b. (a) Every original driver's license issued by the division shall indi-
15 cate the class or classes of motor vehicles which the licensee is entitled
16 to drive. For this purpose the following classes are established:

17 (1) Commercial class A motor vehicles include any combination of
18 vehicles with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more,
19 providing the gross vehicle weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being
20 towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds;

21 (2) commercial class B motor vehicles include any single vehicle with
22 a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, or any such ve-
23 hicle towing a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight
24 rating;

25 (3) commercial class C motor vehicles include any single vehicle less
26 than 26,001 pounds gross vehicle weight rating, or any such vehicle towing
27 a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds, or any vehicle less than 26,001
28 pounds gross vehicle weight rating towing a vehicle in excess of 10,000
29 pounds gross vehicle weight rating, provided the gross combination
30 weight rating of the combination is less than 26,001 pounds comprising:

31 (A) Vehicles designed to transport 16 or more passengers, including
32 the driver; or

33 (B) vehicles used in the transportation of hazardous materials which
34 requires the vehicle to be placarded;

35 (4) class A motor vehicles include any combination of vehicles with a
36 gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, provided the
37 gross combination weight rating of the vehicle or vehicles being towed is
38 in excess of 10,000 pounds, and all other lawful combinations of vehicles
39 with a gross combination weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more; ~~except~~
40 ~~that, class A does not include a combination of vehicles that has a truck~~
41 ~~registered as a farm truck under subsection (2) of K.S.A. 8-143, and~~
42 ~~amendments thereto;~~

43 (5) class B motor vehicles include any single vehicle with a gross ve-

1 hicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more, or any such vehicle towing
2 a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating. ~~Class~~
3 ~~B motor vehicles do not include a single vehicle registered as a farm truck~~
4 ~~under subsection (2) of K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto, when~~
5 ~~such farm truck has a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds, or~~
6 ~~more, or any fire truck operated by a volunteer fire department;~~

7 (6) class C motor vehicles include any single vehicle with a gross
8 vehicle weight rating less than 26,001 pounds, or any such vehicle towing
9 a vehicle not in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating, or
10 any vehicle with a less than 26,001 gross vehicle weight rating towing a
11 vehicle in excess of 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating, provided
12 the gross combination weight rating of the combination is less than 26,001
13 pounds, ~~or any single vehicle registered as a farm truck under subsection~~
14 ~~(2) of K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments thereto, when such farm truck has~~
15 ~~a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds, or more, or any fire truck~~
16 ~~operated by a volunteer fire department; and~~

17 (7) class M motor vehicles includes motorcycles.

18 As used in this subsection, “gross vehicle weight rating” means the
19 value specified by the manufacturer as the maximum loaded weight of a
20 single or a combination (articulated) vehicle. The gross vehicle weight
21 rating of a combination (articulated) vehicle, commonly referred to as the
22 gross combination weight rating, is the gross vehicle weight rating of the
23 power unit plus the gross vehicle weight rating of the towed unit or units.

24 (b) Every applicant for an original driver’s license shall indicate on
25 such person’s application the class or classes of motor vehicles for which
26 the applicant desires a license to drive, and the division shall not issue a
27 driver’s license to any person unless such person has demonstrated sat-
28 isfactorily ability to exercise ordinary and reasonable control in the op-
29 eration of motor vehicles in the class or classes for which the applicant
30 desires a license to drive. The division shall administer an appropriate
31 examination of each applicant’s ability to drive such motor vehicles. Ex-
32 cept as provided in K.S.A. 8-2,125 through 8-2,142, and amendments
33 thereto, the director of vehicles may accept a copy of the certificate of a
34 person’s road test issued to an individual under the regulatory require-
35 ments of the United States department of transportation, in lieu of re-
36 quiring the person to demonstrate ability to operate any motor vehicle or
37 combination of vehicles, if such certificate was issued not more than three
38 years prior to the person’s application for a driver’s license.

39 (c) Any person who is the holder of a valid driver’s license which
40 entitles the person to drive class A motor vehicles may also drive class B
41 and C motor vehicles. Any person who is the holder of a valid driver’s
42 license which entitles the person to drive class B motor vehicles may also
43 drive class C motor vehicles.

1 (d) The secretary of revenue shall adopt rules and regulations estab-
2 lishing qualifications for the safe operation of the various types, sizes and
3 combinations of vehicles in each class of motor vehicles established in
4 subsection (a). Such rules and regulations shall include the adoption of
5 at least the minimum qualifications for commercial drivers' licenses con-
6 tained in the commercial motor vehicle safety act of 1986.

7 (e) Any reference in the motor vehicle drivers' license act to a class
8 or classes of motor vehicles is a reference to the classes of motor vehicles
9 established in subsection (a), and any reference in the motor vehicle driv-
10 ers' license act to a classified driver's license or a class of driver's license
11 means a driver's license which restricts the holder thereof to driving one
12 or more of such classes of motor vehicles.

13 (f) The secretary of revenue may enter into a contract with any per-
14 son, who meets the qualifications imposed on persons regularly employed
15 by the division as drivers' license examiners, to accept applications for
16 drivers' licenses and to administer the examinations required for the is-
17 suance of drivers' licenses.

18 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), any person em-
19 ployed as an automotive mechanic who possesses a valid class C driver's
20 license may drive any class A or class B motor vehicle on the highways
21 for the purpose of determining the proper performance of the vehicle,
22 except that this does not include commercial class A, B or C vehicles.

23 (h) *Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a), a person who*
24 *possesses a valid class C driver's license may drive any class A motor*
25 *vehicle under paragraph (4) of subsection (a), or any class B motor vehicle*
26 *under paragraph (5) of subsection (a), if such motor vehicle is registered*
27 *as a farm truck or truck tractor under K.S.A. 8-143, and amendments*
28 *thereto, except that such person shall be at least 18 years of age to drive*
29 *a class A motor vehicle.*

30 Sec. 2. K.S.A. 8-234b is hereby repealed.

31 Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
32 publication in the statute book.