Prior law required every applicant for a license to pass a knowledge and skills test for a motor vehicle representative of the type of motor vehicle he operates or expects to operate. In addition to the specialized knowledge and skills tests, each examination was required to include a test of the applicant's eyesight, ability to understand highway signs, knowledge of railroad and highway grade crossing safety, and knowledge of all relevant traffic regulations.

Prior law required the department to administer knowledge tests for all applicants for a driver's license, and authorized the department to allow skills tests to be administered by a third party, including another state, an employer, a private training facility or other private institution, or a department, agency, or instrumentality of state or local government.

New law retains prior law but further authorizes the department or a third party to administer the knowledge tests for Class "D" or "E" drivers' licenses.

Prior law authorized the department to contract with or enter into agreements with third parties or certify or license them to perform testing. Furthermore, the department was required to ensure that all tests were administered by qualified examiners, setting minimum qualifications for examiners and proscribing procedures for testing, including procedures to ensure the confidentiality of tests. The department was required to devise a system to regulate third party examiners. These regulations had the full force and effect of law.

New law retains prior law.

Prior law authorized a civil penalty up to $5,000 per violation, or revocation or suspension of the privilege to test applicants for improper issuance of proof of successful completion of the skills test. New law retains prior law but further authorizes the same civil penalty and sanctions for improper issuance of proof of successful completion of the knowledge test.

Prior law required third party examiners to provide evidence to the applicant