TITLE 17. TRANSPORTATION

CHAPTER 4. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TITLE, REGISTRATION, AND DRIVER LICENSES

(Authority: A.R.S. §§ 28-108, 28-202 et seq.)

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"Applicant" or "licensee" means a person:

Applying for an Arizona driver license or driver license renewal, or

Required by the Division to complete an examination successfully or to obtain an evaluation.

"Application" means the Division form required to be completed by or for an applicant for a driver license or driver license renewal.

"Arizona Driver License Manual" or "manual" means the reference booklet for applicants, issued by the Division, containing non-technical explanations of the Arizona motor vehicle laws.

"Aura" means a sensation experienced before the onset of a neurological disorder.

"Commercial Driver License physical qualifications" means driver medical qualification standards for a person licensed in class A, B, or C to operate a commercial vehicle as prescribed under 49 CFR 391, incorporated by reference under R17-5-202 and R17-5-204.

"Director" means the Division Director or the Division Director's designee.

"Disqualifying medical condition" means a visual, physical, or psychological condition, including substance abuse, that impairs functional ability.

"Division" means the Arizona Department of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division.

"Evaluation" means a medical assessment of an applicant or licensee by a specialist as defined below to determine whether a disqualifying medical condition exists.

"Examination" means testing or evaluating an applicant's or licensee's:

Ability to read and understand official traffic control devices,

Knowledge of safe driving practices and the traffic laws of this state, and

Functional ability.

"Functional ability" means the ability to operate safely a motor vehicle of the type permitted by an Arizona driver license class or endorsement.

"Identification number" means a distinguishing number assigned by the Division to a person for a license or instruction permit.

"Licensee" means a person issued a driver license by this state. "Licensing action" means an action by the Division to:

Issue, deny, suspend, revoke, cancel, or restrict a driver license; or

Require an examination or evaluation of an applicant or licensee.

"Medical code" means a system of numerals or letters indicating the licensee suffers from some type of adverse medical condition.

"Medical screening questions and certification" means the questions and certification on the application.

"Neurological disorder" means a malfunction or disease of the nervous system.

"Seizure" means a neurological disorder characterized by a sudden alteration in consciousness, sensation, motor control, or behavior, due to an abnormal electrical discharge in the brain. "Specialist" means:

A physician who is a surgeon or a psychiatrist;

A physician whose practice is limited to a particular anatomical or physiological area or function of the human body, patients with a specific age range; or

A psychologist.

"Substance abuse" means:

Use of alcohol in a manner that makes the user an alcoholic as defined in A.R.S. § 36-2021, or

Use of controlled substance in a manner that makes the user a drug dependent person as defined in A.R.S. § 36-2501.

"Substance abuse counselor" is defined in A.R.S. § 28-3005.

"Substance abuse evaluation" means an assessment by a physician, specialist, or certified substance abuse counselor to determine whether the use of alcohol or a drug impairs functional ability.

"Successful completion of an examination" means an applicant or licensee:

Establishes the visual, physical, and psychological ability to operate a motor vehicle safely, or

Achieves a score of at least 80% on any required tests.

Historical Note

Adopted effective December 14, 1995 (Supp. 95-4). Section recodified to R17-5-706 at 7 A.A.R. 3483, effective July 20, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). New Section made by final rulemaking at 8 A.A.R. 3241, effective July 12, 2002 (Supp. 02-3). Amended by final rulemaking at 8 A.A.R. 5223, effective December 5, 2002 (Supp. 02-4).

Amended by final rulemaking at 10 A.A.R. 2829, effective August 7, 2004 (Supp. 04-2). Amended by final rulemaking at 13 A.A.R. 1127, effective May 5, 2007 (Supp. 07-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 14 A.A.R. 227, effective March 8, 2008 (Supp. 08-1).

R17-4-502. General Provisions for Visual, Physical, and Psychological Ability to Operate a Motor Vehicle Safely

A. Applicant's or licensee's responsibility. To comply with the Division's screening process for safe operation of a motor vehicle, an applicant or licensee shall:

 Provide the Division with all requested information about the applicant's or licensee's visual, physical, or psychological condition;

2. Successfully complete all required examinations;

3. Obtain all required evaluations;

 Ensure timely submission of evaluation reports to the Division; and

5. Appear at all required interviews.

Screening process for safe operation of a motor vehicle. This
subsection and subsections (C) through subsection (E) state
the screening process for safe operation of a motor vehicle.

 An applicant shall complete the application, including the medical screening questions and certification.

An applicant without a valid driver license, who successfully completes all required examinations, shall obtain an evaluation if:

 The Division informs the applicant that the applicant's responses to the medical screening questions indicate the existence of a disqualifying medical condition; or

b. The applicant comes under subsection (C)(1)(a), subsection (C)(1)(c), or subsection (C)(1)(d).

- An applicant for license renewal shall successfully complete an examination if the applicant's responses to the medical screening questions indicate that since the applicant's last driver license renewal:
 - The applicant has developed a visual, physical, or psychological condition that may constitute a disqualifying medical condition; or
 - There has been a change in an existing visual, physical, or psychological condition that may constitute a disqualifying medical condition.
- 4. As soon as an applicant's medical condition allows, the applicant shall notify the Division, in writing or by telephone, that the applicant has or may have a medical condition not previously reported to the Division that affects the applicant's functional ability.
- Upon receipt of the notification required under subsection (B)(4), the Division shall require the applicant to:
 - Complete the medical screening questions and certification on the application, and
 - Continue with the screening process for safe operation of a motor vehicle.
- C. Evaluation, interview, and additional evaluation. An applicant or licensee shall submit to an evaluation, attend an interview, or submit to an additional evaluation as required by the Division.
 - The Division shall require an evaluation if the Director notifies the applicant or licensee in writing that:
 - The applicant or licensee comes under the provisions of R17-4-503 or R17-4-506;
 - The applicant or licensee reports a possible disqualifying medical condition or fails to successfully complete an examination;
 - The applicant or licensee shows unexplained confusion, loss of consciousness, or incoherence that is observed by Division personnel; or
 - d. A person with direct knowledge submits to the Division written information about specific events or conduct indicating the applicant or licensee may have a disqualifying medical condition.
 - The applicant or licensee shall have the physician, appropriate specialist, or certified substance abuse counselor who performs an evaluation submit, to the Division's Medical Review Program, an evaluation report on a form provided by the Division.
 - If the evaluation report on the applicant or licensee is inconclusive regarding the existence of a disqualifying medical condition, the Division shall require the applicant or licensee to appear for an interview to explain information in the evaluation report.
 - 4. If the Division is unable to determine whether a disqualifying medical condition exists after an interview with the applicant or licensee, the Division shall require an additional evaluation, performed by an appropriate specialist and reported to the Division's Medical Review Program, on a form provided by the Division.
 - An applicant or licensee shall pay for any expense incurred by the applicant or licensee to show compliance with the visual, physical, and psychological standards for a driver license.
- D. Licensing action. The Division shall take a licensing action after requiring an applicant or licensee to complete an examination successfully, obtain an evaluation and submit an evaluation report, or appear at an interview.
 - The Division shall deny a driver license if an applicant:
 - Fails to complete successfully an examination; or
 - b. Fails to:

- i. Obtain an evaluation;
- Have a physician, appropriate specialist, or certified substance abuse counselor submit an evaluation report to the Division within 30 days after the Division notifies the applicant that an evaluation is required; or
- iii. Appear at an interview; or
- Has an evaluation report submitted that indicates a disqualifying medical condition.
- The Division shall summarily suspend a licensee's driver license under A.R.S. §§ 28-3306 and 41-1064 for a reason stated in subsection (D)(1).
- The Division shall issue a revocation notice with a notice of summary suspension. The revocation notice shall inform the licensee that:
 - Unless the Division receives the licensee's timely hearing request under subsection (F), the revocation becomes effective:
 - Fifteen days after the date the licensee is personally served with the notice; or
 - Twenty days after the date the notice is mailed to the licensee.
 - A person who wishes to obtain a license after suspension or revocation shall reapply for a license as specified in A.R.S. § 28-3315.
- The Division shall issue a driver license to an applicant or shall not suspend or revoke a licensee's driver license if:
 - The applicant or licensee successfully completes all required examinations and the Division does not require an evaluation, or
 - b. The applicant or licensee obtains all required evaluations and the most recent evaluation report submitted on behalf of the applicant or licensee conclusively indicates no disqualifying medical condition.
- E. Driver license restrictions. If an applicant or licensee uses an adaptation, including those listed below to demonstrate functional ability during an examination, the Division shall indicate the adaptation as a restriction on a driver license issued to the applicant or licensee and on the applicant's or licensee's driving record.
 - 1. Automatic transmission,
 - 2. Hand dimmer switch,
 - Left-foot gas pedal,
 - Parking-brake extension,
 - Power steering,
 - 6. Power brakes,
 - 7. Six-way power seat,
 - 8. Right-side directional signal,
 - A device that enables an operator to spin the steering wheel.
 - 10. A device that enables full foot control,
 - 11. Dual outside mirrors,
 - 12. Chest restraints,
 - 13. Shoulder restraints,
 - 14. A device that extends pedals,
 - 15. A device that enables full hand control, and
 - 16. Adapted seat.
- F. Hearings. This subsection states the hearing procedure for licensing actions taken by the Division after the screening process for safe operation of a motor vehicle.
 - If the Division takes an adverse licensing action under this Section, an applicant or licensee may request a hearing with the Division's Executive Hearing Office. A hearing request is timely if received by the Division:

- Within 15 days after the date the notice is delivered to the applicant or licensee, or
- Within 20 days after the date the notice is mailed to the applicant or licensee.
- A.A.C. R17-1-501 through R17-1-511 and R17-1-513 govern a hearing conducted under this subsection.

The administrative law judge shall sustain, modify, or void the Division's licensing action.

G. The Division shall not release information required to be submitted to the Division under this Section by an applicant or licensee except to a person or entity qualified under A.R.S. § 28-455.

Historical Note

New Section recodified from R17-4-520 at 7 A.A.R. 3479, effective July 20, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). Amended by final rulemaking at 8 A.A.R. 3241, effective July 12, 2002 (Supp. 02-3). Amended by final rulemaking at 9 A.A.R. 1861, effective June 3, 2003 (Supp. 03-2). Amended by final rulemaking at 13 A.A.R. 1127, effective May 5, 2007 (Supp. 07-1).

Exhibit A. Repealed

Historical Note

New Exhibit made by final rulemaking at 8 A.A.R. 3241, effective July 12, 2002 (Supp. 02-3). Section repealed by final rulemaking at 13 A.A.R. 1127, effective May 5, 2007 (Supp. 07-1).

R17-4-503. Vision standards

A. Definitions.

- 1. "Binocular vision" means the ability to see in both eyes.
- "Bioptic Telescopic Lens System" means a bioptic, spectacle-mounted corrective lens prescribed by a physician or optometrist for meeting vision acuity requirements for driving that uses magnification as the main method of obtaining minimal visual acuity.
- "Corrected visual acuity" means distance vision corrected by eyeglasses, contact lenses, or a bioptic telescopic lens system.
- "Corrective lens" means eyeglasses, contact lenses, or a bioptic telescopic lens system used to correct distance vision.
- 5. "Diplopia" means double vision.
- "Field of vision" means the area in which objects may be seen when the eye is fixed.
- "Impaired night vision" means below normal ability to see in reduced light.
- "Monocular vision" means the ability to see in one eye only.
- "Optometrist" means a person licensed to practice optometry in any state, territory, or possession of the United States or the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.
- "Retinitis pigmentosa" means a chronic progressive inflammation of the retina with atrophy and pigmentary infiltration of the inner layers of the retina.
- "Snellen Chart" means a chart imprinted with lines of black letters of decreasing size for testing visual acuity.
- 12. "Visual acuity" means the clarity of a person's vision.

B. Standard.

- Visual acuity. A person shall have binocular or monocular vision and visual acuity of 20/40 in at least one eye.
- Field of vision. Field of vision shall be 70 degrees temporally, and 35 degrees nasally, in at least one eye.
- C. Restrictions.

- A person with corrected vision shall wear corrective lenses at all times when driving if the corrective lens is required to achieve the vision standards in subsection (B).
- The Division shall restrict a person with diagnosed impaired night vision to daytime driving only.
- The Division shall restrict a person with binocular vision and corrected or uncorrected visual acuity of 20/50 or 20/ 60, when using both eyes, to daytime driving only.
- The Division shall not license a person with monocular vision and visual acuity of 20/50 or greater.
- The Division shall not license a person with binocular vision and visual acuity of 20/70 or greater.

D. Screening process.

- The Division, a physician, or an optometrist may administer visual acuity and field of vision screening through the use of visual screening equipment to determine if a person's visual acuity and field of vision meets minimum standards.
- A person may use a bioptic telescopic lens system during vision screening.
 - a. Beginning on the date of a initial application and every year thereafter, a person using a bioptic telescopic lens system shall submit to the Division an annual exam performed by a physician or optometrist to ascertain whether the person has a progressive eye disease.
 - b. The Division shall not license a person using a bioptic telescopic lens system unless the person submits to the Division a written statement from a physician or an optometrist that the individual meets the visual acuity standard as prescribed in subsection (B).
 - c. The Division shall not license a person using a bioptic telescopic lens system with magnification of the lens that is more than 4X.
- The Division shall conduct visual acuity screening through the use of visual screening equipment or the Snellen Chart to determine whether a person's corrected vision is 20/40 in at least one eye.

Reporting requirements.

- 1. A person choosing to have initial visual acuity and visual field screening done by a physician or an optometrist shall submit the results to the Division.
- If the Division does initial visual acuity and visual field screening and the person does not meet vision standards of subsection (B), the Division shall require the person to submit the results of the person's visual acuity and vision field screening by a physician or an optometrist.
- The Division shall require a person diagnosed with any of the following conditions to file the results of the person's visual acuity and visual field screening completed by the physician or optometrist:
 - a. Any progressive eye disease,
 - b. Diplopia, or
 - Impaired night vision.
- F. Results of visual acuity and visual field screening shall contain the following.
 - An examination date no more than three months before the submission date to the Division;
 - 2. Visual acuity and field of vision;
 - 3. If applicable, specification that the person is monocular;
 - 4. If applicable, diagnosis of any condition described in subsection (E)(3);
 - Any recommendations on frequency of reporting requirements for the person, in addition to those required by the Division;

Suggested restrictions on driving, in addition to those required by the Division; and

7. Any recommendations on the person's ability to safely

operate a motor vehicle.

G. The Division shall require a driving test if a person's eye disease is determined by a physician or optometrist to be progressive.

Historical Note

New Section recodified from R17-4-521 at 7 A.A.R. 3479, effective July 20, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). Amended by final rulemaking at 12 A.A.R. 221, effective January 10, 2006 (Supp. 06-1).

R17-4-504. Medical Alert Conditions

A. Definition. In this Section, "license" means any class driver license, commercial driver license, non-operating identification license, or instruction permit.

B. Medical alert condition displayed on license. The Division will provide on each license a space to indicate a medical alert condition. A list of recognized medical alert conditions is available at all Motor Vehicle Division Customer Service offices and Authorized Third Party Driver License offices.

C. Retention of medical alert condition authorization. The Division will not maintain the medical alert code on the Division computer record unless written authorization is submitted.

D. A person shall submit a signed statement, from a physician or registered nurse practitioner, stating that the person is diagnosed with a medical condition. The signed statement is required every time the person requests a license unless the person authorizes the Division to maintain the medical code in the Division computer.

Historical Note

Adopted effective September 25, 1991 (Supp. 91-3). Section repealed by final rulemaking at 7 A.A.R. 3831, effective August 10, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). New Section made by final rulemaking at 13 A.A.R. 1127, effective May 5, 2007 (Supp. 07-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 14 A.A.R. 227, effective March 8, 2008 (Supp. 08-1).

R17-4-505. Repealed

Historical Note

Adopted effective May 2, 1990 (Supp. 90-2). Section repealed by final rulemaking at 7 A.A.R. 3831, effective August 10, 2001 (Supp. 01-3).

R17-4-506. Neurological Standards

Driver license application.

 A person who has a seizure in the three months before applying for a driver license shall undergo a medical examination as provided in R17-4-502.

After the medical examination under R17-4-502, the person or the person's physician shall submit the medical examination report to the Division.

 The Division shall not issue a driver license to a person if the medical examination report shows that the person has a neurological disorder that affects the person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

B. Driver license revocation.

- A person with a driver license or non-resident driving privileges who experiences a seizure shall cease driving and:
 - Undergo a medical examination as provided in R17-4-502;
 - Submit the medical examination report to the Division; and

c. Undergo a follow-up medical examination within one year after the seizure or within a shorter time, as recommended by a physician.

After each medical examination, the person or the person's physician shall submit the applicable medical

examination report to the Division.

 The Division shall revoke a person's driver license or nonresident driver privileges if any medical examination report shows the person has a neurological disorder that affects the person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

C. Medical examination report. A medical examination report under this Section shall include the following information:

- 1. Age at onset of seizures, diagnosis, and history;
- Aftereffects of seizures;

EEG findings, if any;

- Description, cause, frequency, duration, and date of most recent seizure;
- Current medications, including dosage, side effects, and serum level; and
- A physician's medical opinion as to whether the neurological disorder will affect the person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely.

D. Physician's medical opinion. A neurological disorder does not affect a person's ability to operate a motor vehicle safely if a physician concludes with reasonable medical certainty that:

- Any seizure that occurred within the last three months was due to a change in anticonvulsant medication ordered by a physician and that seizures are under control after the change in medication;
- Any seizure that occurred within the last three months was a single event that will not recur in the future;
- Any seizure is likely to occur but has an established pattern of occurring only during sleep; or
- There is an established pattern of an aura of sufficient duration to allow the person to cease operating a motor vehicle immediately at the onset of the aura.

Historical Note

Former Rule, General Order 107; Amended effective April 28, 1981 (Supp. 81-2). Amended effective July 1, 1985 (Supp. 85-4). Former Section R17-4-46 renumbered without change as Section R17-4-506 (Supp. 87-2).

Emergency amendment adopted effective December 31, 1998, pursuant to A.R.S. § 28-366, for a maximum of 180 days (Supp. 98-4). Emergency amendment expired June 29, 1999 pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1026(C) (Supp. 99-3). Emergency amendment adopted effective October 1,

1999, pursuant to A.R.S. § 28-366, for a maximum of 180 days (Supp. 99-4). Amended by final rulemaking at 6

A.A.R. 1172, effective March 9, 2000 (Supp. 00-1). Amended by final rulemaking at 7 A.A.R. 3221, effective July 12, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). Section recodified to R17-4-404 at 7 A.A.R. 3479, effective July 20, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). New Section recodified from R17-4-522 at 7 A.A.R. 3479, effective July 20, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). Amended by final rulemaking at 7 A.A.R. 5440, effective November 14, 2001 (Supp. 01-4). Amended by final rulemaking at 8 A.A.R. 5223, effective December 5, 2002 (Supp. 02-4).

R17-4-507. Driver License Identification Number

A. The Division shall assign an identification number to each person who receives a driver license, nonoperating identification license, or instruction permit. The Division shall place a person's identification number on the person's license, nonoperating identification, or instruction permit.

- **B.** The Division shall not use a person's Social Security Number as the person's identification number unless:
 - The person's current driver license or nonoperating identification license has a Social Security Number as the identification number, or
 - The person requests that the person's Social Security Number be used as the identification number.

Historical Note

Adopted effective July 24, 1985 (Supp. 85-4). Amended effective March 13, 1986 (Supp. 86-2). Former Section R17-4-50 renumbered without change as Section R17-4-507 (Supp. 87-2). Amended by final rulemaking at 7 A.A.R. 4355, effective September 14, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). Amended by final rulemaking at 8 A.A.R. 5223, effective December 5, 2002 (Supp. 02-4).

R17-4-508. Commercial Driver License Physical Qualifications

A. Requirements.

- A Commercial Driver License applicant shall submit to the Division a U.S. Department of Transportation medical examination form completed as prescribed under 49 CFR 391.43:
 - a. Except as provided in subsection (A)(1)(c) of this Section, by a professional licensed to practice by the federal government, any state, or U.S. territory with one of the following credentials:
 - Medical Doctor,
 - ii. Doctor of Osteopathy,
 - iii. Doctor of Chiropractic,
 - iv. Nurse Practitioner, or
 - v. Physician Assistant, and
 - b. Upon the applicant's initial application and at the time of each 24-month renewal.
 - c. An optometrist, licensed to practice by the federal government, any state, or U.S. territory, may perform the medical examination as it pertains to visual acuity, field of vision, and the ability to recognize colors as specified in 49 CFR 391.43(b)(10).
- As prescribed under 49 CFR 391.41(a), a licensee who
 possesses a Commercial Driver License shall keep an
 original or photographic copy of the licensee's current
 medical examination form required under subsection
 (A)(1) available for law enforcement inspection upon
 request.
- A licensee who possesses a Commercial Driver License shall notify the Division of a physical condition that develops or worsens causing noncompliance with the Commercial Driver License physical qualifications as soon as the licensee's medical condition allows.
- B. Commercial Driver License suspension and revocation notification procedure. To notify a licensee of any Commercial Driver License suspension and revocation under subsection (C), the Division shall simultaneously mail two notices within 15 days after a medical examination form's due or actual submission date to the licensee's address of record that:
 - Suspends the licensee's Commercial Driver License beginning on the notice's date; and
 - Revokes the licensee's Commercial Driver License 15 days after the date of the suspension notice issued under subsection (B)(1).

C. Noncompliance actions.

 Initial application denial. If an applicant's initial medical examination form required under subsection (A)(1) shows that the applicant does not comply with the Commercial Driver License physical qualifications, the Divi-

- sion shall immediately mail the Commercial Driver License denial notification to the applicant's address of record.
- Twenty-four month renewal suspension and revocation. If a renewing Commercial Driver licensee submits:
 - a. No medical examination form required under subsection (A)(1) or a form indicating noncompliance with Commercial Driver License physical qualifications, the Division shall follow the suspension and revocation notification procedure prescribed under subsection (B).
 - b. An incomplete medical examination form required under subsection (A)(1), the Division shall immediately return the incomplete form with a letter requesting that the licensee provide missing information to the Division within 45 days after the date of the Division's letter. The Division shall follow the suspension and revocation notification procedure prescribed under subsection (B) if the licensee fails to return requested information in the time-frame prescribed in this subsection.
 - c. A medical examination form required under subsection (A)(1) that indicates the licensee's blood pressure is greater than 140 systolic or 90 diastolic, the Division shall mail notice to the licensee requiring three additional blood pressure evaluations:
 - i. Made on three different days,
 - Performed by a qualified professional as prescribed under subsection (A)(1)(a), and
 - iii. Returned to the Division within 90 days after the Division's written notification. The Division shall follow the suspension and revocation notification procedure prescribed under subsection (B) if the licensee fails to return requested information prescribed under this subsection.
 - d. A medical examination form required under subsection (A)(1) that indicates the licensee's blood pressure is greater than 180 systolic or 110 diastolic, the Division shall follow the suspension and revocation notification procedure prescribed under subsection (B).
- D. A Commercial Driver License that remains revoked for longer than 12 months expires. The holder of an expired Commercial Driver License may obtain a new Commercial Driver License by successfully completing all Commercial Driver License original-application written, vision, and demonstration-skill testing and submitting the medical examination form prescribed under subsection (A)(1).
- E. Administrative hearing. A person who is denied a Commercial Driver License or whose Commercial Driver License is suspended or revoked under this Section may request a hearing according to the procedure prescribed under 17 A.A.C. 1, Article 5. The hearing is held in accordance with the procedures prescribed under A.A.C. R17-1-501 through R17-1-511 and R17-1-513.

Historical Note

Adopted effective October 31, 1975 (Supp. 75-1). Former Section R17-4-57 renumbered without change as Section R17-4-508 (Supp. 87-2). Emergency amendments adopted effective July 30, 1993, pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-1026, valid for only 90 days (Supp. 93-3). Emergency amendments permanently adopted effective October 27, 1993 (Supp. 93-4). Section recodified to R17-4-409 at 7 A.A.R. 3479, effective July 20, 2001 (Supp. 01-3). New Section recodified from R17-4-802 at 7 A.A.R. 3479, effective July 20, 2001 (Supp. 01-1). Amended by final