[CHAPTER 192]

AN ACT

To extend the provisions of the Federal Airport Act to the Virgin Islands.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Federal Airport Act of 1946 is hereby amended by—

(1) Adding after the words “Puerto Rico”, wherever they appear in paragraph 7 of section 2 (a) and in sections 3 (a), 7, and 9 (c) thereof, the phrase “and the Virgin Islands”.

(2) Adding after the word “Alaska” appearing in section 10 (c) the phrase “and the Virgin Islands”.

Approved April 17, 1948.

[CHAPTER 215]

AN ACT

To amend section 7 of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, as amended, to provide for learners’ permits, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 7 (a) of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

“(a) (1) Upon application made under oath and the payment of the fee hereinafter prescribed, the Commissioners or their designated agent shall issue a motor vehicle operator’s permit to any individual who, after examination, in the opinion of the Commissioners or their designated agent, is mentally, morally, and physically qualified to operate a motor vehicle in such manner as not to jeopardize the safety of individuals or property. The Commissioners or their designated agent shall cause each applicant to be examined as to his knowledge of the traffic regulations of the District and shall require the applicant to give a practical demonstration of his ability to operate a motor vehicle within a congested portion of the District and in the presence of such individuals as may be authorized to conduct the demonstration, except that upon the renewal of any such operator’s permit such examination and demonstration may be waived in the discretion of the Commissioners or their designated agent. Should the Commissioners or their designated agent believe that the issuance or reissuance of a permit in accordance with the provisions of this Act may prove a menace to public safety, they or their agent may refuse the issuance or reissuance thereof. Operators’ permits shall be issued for a period not in excess of three years upon compliance with such regulations as the Commissioners or their designated agent may prescribe. The fee for any such permit shall be $3. No operator’s permit shall be issued to any individual under sixteen years of age. No operator’s permit issued to any individual under eighteen years of age shall authorize the operation by such individual while he is under the age of eighteen years of any motor vehicle other than a passenger vehicle or motorcycle or motor bicycle, used solely for purposes of pleasure: Provided, That such permit shall not authorize the operation by any such individual under the age of eighteen years of any such motor vehicle for compensation.

(2) Upon application made under oath and the payment of a fee of $1, the commissioners or their designated agent may issue a learner’s permit to any applicant who has successfully passed all parts of the examination other than the driving demonstration test. Such permit shall entitle the permittee, while having such permit in his immediate possession, to drive a passenger motor vehicle in the District for a
period of thirty days, when accompanied by the holder of a motor vehicle operator's permit who is occupying a seat beside such permittee. Any such learner's permit may be extended for one additional period of thirty days. No learner's permit shall be issued to any individual under sixteen years of age; and no such permit issued to any individual sixteen years of age or over but under eighteen years of age shall authorize the operation of any motor vehicle unless the holder of such permit is accompanied by the holder of a motor-vehicle instructor's license who is occupying a seat beside such learner or unless the holder of such permit is operating a passenger vehicle used solely for purposes of pleasure and owned by such learner or his parent or guardian and such learner is accompanied by the holder of a motor-vehicle operator's permit who is occupying a seat beside such learner.

"(3) Any pupil fifteen years of age or over enrolled in a high school or junior high school driver education and training course approved by the Commissioners or their designated agent may, without obtaining either an operator's or a learner's permit, operate a dual-control motor vehicle at such times as such pupil is under instruction and accompanied by a licensed motor-vehicle driving instructor: Provided, That such instructor shall at all times while he is engaged in such instruction have on his person a certificate from the principal or other person in charge of such school, stating that such instructor is officially designated to instruct pupils enrolled in such course, and whenever demand is made by a police officer such instructor shall display to him such certificate.

"(4) In case of the loss of an operator's permit or a learner's permit, the individual to whom such permit was issued shall forthwith notify the commissioners or their designated agent, who shall furnish such individual with a duplicate permit. The fee for each such duplicate permit shall be 50 cents.

"(5) Enlisted men of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard shall be issued, without charge, a permit to operate Government-owned vehicles, while engaged in official business, upon the presentation of a certificate from their commanding officers to the effect that they are assigned to operate a Government vehicle and are qualified to drive, and upon proving to the satisfaction of the director of vehicles and traffic that they are familiar with the traffic regulations of the District of Columbia."

Sec. 2. Section 7 (e) of the District of Columbia Traffic Act, 1925, as amended, is amended to read as follows:

"(e) No individual shall operate a motor vehicle in the District, except as provided in section 8, without having first obtained an operator's permit or a learner's permit issued under the provisions of this Act. Any individual violating any provision of this subsection shall, upon conviction thereof, be fined not more than $300 or be imprisoned not more than ninety days."

Approved April 20, 1948.