

Regulations and other Acts

M.O., 2023

Order 2023-19 of the Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility dated 1 June 2023

Highway Safety Code
(chapter C-24.2)

Suspension of the term of validity of a driver's licence and the due date for the payment of the amounts payable for its renewal

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AND SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY,

CONSIDERING section 633.2 of the Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2), which provides that the Minister may, by order and after consultation with the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, suspend the application of a provision of the Code or the regulations for the period specified by the Minister, if the Minister considers that it is in the interest of the public and is not likely to compromise highway safety;

CONSIDERING that section 633.2 of the Code provides that the Minister may prescribe any rule, applicable when using the exemption, that ensures an equivalent level of safety in the Minister's opinion;

CONSIDERING that section 633.2 of the Code provides that the publication requirement set out in section 8 of the Regulations Act (chapter R-18.1) does not apply to an order made under section 633.2;

CONSIDERING section 18 of the Regulations Act, which provides that a regulation may come into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* where the authority that has made it is of the opinion that the urgency of the situation requires it and the reason justifying such coming into force is published with the regulation;

CONSIDERING that a driver's licence issued under the Highway Safety Code bears, barring exceptions, a signature and a photograph;

CONSIDERING that a person holding a driver's licence is subject to penalties if the person fails to renew the licence on the expiry date and to pay the amounts payable;

CONSIDERING that the Minister considers that the suspension of the provisions of the Regulation respecting licences (chapter C-24.2, r. 34) governing the renewal of a driver's licence and the payment of the amounts payable for its renewal is in the interest of the public and is not likely to compromise highway safety;

CONSIDERING that the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec has been consulted;

CONSIDERING that the Minister is of the opinion that the urgency to suspend temporarily the term of validity of a driver's licence and the payment of the amounts payable to renew such a licence is due in particular to the following circumstances and justifies a coming into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*:

—since the implementation of the digital transformation at the Société de l'assurance automobile du Québec, an increased and ongoing influx has been noted at its service centre and with its mandataries;

—certain operations must be performed only in a service centre of the Société or with its mandataries, including the renewal of driver's licences and the taking of photographs for the purposes of the renewal;

—due to the waiting time caused by the influx, a person holding a driver's licence who must renew the licence is subject to a significant risk of not being able to do so before the due date at certain service centres and thus be prevented from using his or her vehicle;

ORDERS AS FOLLOWS:

1. The application of sections 50.4, 63 and 73.5 of the Regulation respecting licences (chapter C-24.2, r. 34) with respect to a person whose driver's licence expires between 1 June 2023 and 1 September 2023 is suspended until the earliest of

(1) the date that is 90 days after the person's birthday; and

(2) the date of the renewal of the licence.

During the suspension, the driver's licence of the person referred to in the first paragraph is deemed to be valid.

The person referred to in the first paragraph must pay, on the renewal of the person's driver's licence, the amounts payable under section 69 of the Highway Safety Code (chapter C-24.2) for the 12-month period as of the person's birthday.

2. This Order comes into force on the date of its publication in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. It is revoked on 29 November 2023.

Québec, 1 June 2023

GENEVIÈVE GUILBAULT

Minister of Transport and Sustainable Mobility

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