

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE · MASSACHUSETTS

# How to Get a Driver's License in Massachusetts: Turkish-Language Exam, No-SSN Rules and Fees, 2026 Guide

The learner's permit exam is offered in Turkish. For newcomers, applicants without an SSN and drivers arriving with a Turkish license: documents, REAL ID and fees.

## SHORT ANSWER

Start with the good news: **the learner's permit exam is offered in Turkish**. The Registry of Motor Vehicles (RMV) gives the written test in 37 languages. It is 25 questions and 18 correct answers pass. The order is a learner's permit (\$30), a separate road test appointment (\$35), then the license (\$50 for five years). The road test itself is not in Turkish. Immigration status does not block a license, but a Turkish license cannot be exchanged.

## What to know before you start

- **The written exam comes in Turkish.** Twenty-five multiple-choice questions, 18 correct to pass, 25 minutes. Take it at a Service Center or online; the online version needs a camera and cannot be taken on a phone or tablet. If reading is the problem, the RMV also gives an oral exam: email [rtinterpreters@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:rtinterpreters@dot.state.ma.us) or call 857-368-8105.
- **The road test is not in Turkish.** You may bring your own interpreter.
- **Status does not block a license.** Under the Work and Family Mobility Act, in force since July 1, 2023, a standard Class D license is issued regardless of immigration status and no proof of lawful presence is asked for. A valid foreign passport that needs no visa, or a consular ID, plus one second document is enough. If you have never had an SSN you sign an Affidavit of No SSN.
- **REAL ID is different.** The card with the star requires proof of lawful presence. Someone without status can hold a standard license but not a REAL ID.
- **A Turkish license is not exchanged.** The RMV waives the tests for only Canada, Mexico, U.S. territories, South Korea, Germany, France and Taiwan. Your Turkish license still helps as the second document for identity, and nothing more.
- **There is no published grace period.** Neither the statute nor the RMV gives a number of days you may keep driving on a foreign license after you become a resident. The 30 and 60 day figures online have no official basis. The safe move is to book the permit appointment as soon as you move.
- **Where the rules live.** The two guide pages for the Act on [mass.gov](https://mass.gov) were unpublished as of September 30, 2026. Work from the RMV [identification requirements page](#).

## How to apply, step by step

- 1 Apply for the learner's permit (\$30).** Apply online, then book a Service Center appointment. The permit lasts two years or until the end of your lawful stay, and a vision screening is done at the application. You must be 16 or older, live in Massachusetts and hold no license or permit in another state.
- 2 Gather the documents.** The RMV takes originals only, nothing laminated, and a non-English document needs a certified translation. See the table below.
- 3 Take the written exam.** Choose Turkish on the exam screen. 18 of 25 correct passes.
- 4 Book the road test separately (\$35).** The fee is not refunded if you fail, arrive late or cancel less than 72 hours ahead. Six road tests per 12 months is the limit.
- 5 Bring a sponsor and a car.** The sponsor must be 21 or older with a valid U.S. state license and at least one year of driving experience. **A person with a foreign license cannot sponsor you.** The car needs a valid registration and inspection sticker, and a parking brake the examiner can reach.
- 6 Get the license.** A Class D license is \$50 for five years. If your lawful stay is shorter, the license is issued for a shorter term and prorated at \$10 per year.

## Which documents count?

| WHAT IS ASKED FOR                  | WHAT WORKS FOR SOMEONE ARRIVING FROM TÜRKIYE                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Identity, Option A (one document)  | A U.S. passport, a green card, an employment authorization document (EAD), or a foreign passport together with a U.S. visa and an I-94                                                                                                        |
| Identity, Option B (two documents) | A valid foreign passport that needs no visa, or a consular ID, plus one of: a U.S. state driver license, a foreign birth certificate, a foreign national ID card, a <b>Turkish driver license</b> , or a U.S. marriage or divorce certificate |
| Social Security                    | Your SSN; or, if you have never had one, the Affidavit of No SSN (Option B only); or an SSA denial notice issued in the last 60 days with your passport, visa and I-94                                                                        |
| Residency                          | A lease, an electricity, gas or phone bill, a bank statement or a school letter, dated within the last 60 days                                                                                                                                |

## Fees (2026)

| TRANSACTION                              | FEE                                                  |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Learner permit application (2 years)     | \$30 (duplicate \$15)                                |
| License application and road test        | \$35                                                 |
| Class D license (5 years)                | \$50 (\$10 per year if issued for less than 5 years) |
| Massachusetts ID card (Mass ID, 5 years) | \$25 (\$5 per year if shorter)                       |
| REAL ID upgrade                          | \$50 at renewal, \$25 outside the renewal cycle      |

| TRANSACTION             | FEE  |
|-------------------------|------|
| Duplicate license or ID | \$25 |

Fees come from the RMV schedule revised in May 2025. Check the [current schedule](#) before you go.

## Driving on a Turkish license

- **As a visitor:** the permission to drive on a foreign license is written for nonresidents (MGL c.90 s.10). If your license is not in English, carry an International Driving Permit or a photo translation in English. You must be 16 or older and the license must not be suspended.
- **As a resident:** you apply for a Massachusetts license. No number of days has been published, so do not wait.
- **Moving from another U.S. state:** that license converts without tests and counts on its own as proof of identity.

### REAL ID AND FLYING

A standard Massachusetts license does not show your status, and it is not a federal ID either. Carry your passport, green card or employment authorization document for domestic flights and federal buildings. A REAL ID needs one lawful-presence document, one document showing your full SSN and two proofs of Massachusetts residency. If you are not a U.S. citizen and your lawful stay is at least 12 months, you get a limited-term REAL ID that cannot be renewed online. The temporary paper REAL ID is not accepted at airport security.

## RMV offices and appointments

| ITEM                              | DETAIL                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Appointments                      | Required, through the <a href="#">RMV Online Service Center</a> . When no slot is open you register and get an email with a personal link that expires within 24 hours. |
| Haymarket Service Center (Boston) | 136 Blackstone St., Boston MA 02109 · Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. · license work by appointment only                                   |
| Watertown                         | 550 Arsenal St. · road tests Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., by appointment                                                                                          |
| RMV contact center                | 857-368-8000 · senior and disability appointment line 857-368-8005                                                                                                      |

Never pay anyone for an RMV appointment. The RMV says payments happen only on its own site or at its own locations.

## Common mistakes

- Preparing in English without knowing the written exam is available in Turkish.
- Bringing a friend with a foreign license as the road test sponsor. The sponsor needs a U.S. state license.
- Showing up to the road test with a car whose registration or inspection sticker is not valid.

- Bringing photocopies or laminated documents. Originals only.
- Booking a REAL ID appointment without lawful status. A standard license is available; a REAL ID is not.



#### **TURKISH-SPEAKING IMMIGRATION ATTORNEY IN MASSACHUSETTS**

### **Have a question about your immigration status?**

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