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SENATE BILL 5844

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State of Washington

57th Legislature

2001 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Carlson, Franklin, Hewitt, Kastama, Haugen, Patterson, Zarelli, Fairley, Oke, Fraser, Deccio, Constantine, Long, Kline, Parlette, Thibaudeau, Honeyford, Hochstatter, Spanel, Rasmussen, Winsley and Kohl-Welles

Read first time 02/05/2001. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to traffic safety education; amending RCW  
2 28A.220.030 and 28A.220.900; and adding a new section to chapter  
3 28A.220 RCW.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.220.030 and 2000 c 115 s 9 are each amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 (1) The superintendent of public instruction is authorized to  
8 establish a section of traffic safety education, and through such  
9 section shall: Define a "realistic level of effort" required to  
10 provide an effective traffic safety education course, establish a level  
11 of driving competency required of each student to successfully complete  
12 the course, and ensure that an effective statewide program is  
13 implemented and sustained, administer, supervise, and develop the  
14 traffic safety education program and shall assist local school  
15 districts in the conduct of their traffic safety education programs.  
16 The superintendent shall adopt necessary rules and regulations  
17 governing the operation and scope of the traffic safety education  
18 program; and each school district shall submit a report to the  
19 superintendent on the condition of its traffic safety education

1 program: PROVIDED, That the superintendent shall monitor the quality  
2 of the program and carry out the purposes of this chapter.

3 (2) The board of directors of any school district maintaining a  
4 secondary school which includes any of the grades 10 to 12, inclusive,  
5 may establish and maintain a traffic safety education course. The  
6 board of directors shall provide the program only to students  
7 maintaining a grade point average of 2.0 or its equivalent. If a  
8 school district elects to offer a traffic safety education course and  
9 has within its boundaries a private accredited secondary school which  
10 includes any of the grades 10 to 12, inclusive, at least one class in  
11 traffic safety education shall be given at times other than regular  
12 school hours if there is sufficient demand therefor.

13 (3) The board of directors of a school district, or combination of  
14 school districts, may contract with any drivers' school licensed under  
15 the provisions of chapter 46.82 RCW to teach the laboratory phase of  
16 the traffic safety education course. Instructors provided by any such  
17 contracting drivers' school must be properly qualified teachers of  
18 traffic safety education under the joint qualification requirements  
19 adopted by the superintendent of public instruction and the director of  
20 licensing.

21 (4) The superintendent shall establish a required minimum number of  
22 hours of continuing traffic safety education for traffic safety  
23 education instructors. The superintendent may phase in the requirement  
24 over not more than five years.

25 NEW SECTION. Sec. 2. A new section is added to chapter 28A.220  
26 RCW to read as follows:

27 (1)(a) Each school district shall be reimbursed from funds  
28 appropriated for traffic safety education.

29 (b) The superintendent of public instruction shall determine the  
30 per-pupil reimbursement amount for the traffic safety education course  
31 to be funded by the state for students eligible for free or reduced-  
32 price lunches. Each school district offering an approved standard  
33 traffic safety education course shall be reimbursed or granted an  
34 amount up to the level established by the superintendent of public  
35 instruction as may be appropriated.

36 (c) The superintendent of public instruction may provide per-pupil  
37 reimbursements for eligible students to school districts only where all

1 the traffic educators have satisfied the continuing education  
2 requirement of RCW 28A.220.030(4).

3 (2) The board of directors of any school district or combination of  
4 school districts shall establish a traffic safety education fee, which  
5 fee when imposed shall be required to be paid by any duly enrolled  
6 student in any such school district before or while enrolled in a  
7 traffic safety education course. To the extent funds are appropriated,  
8 the school board shall waive all or a portion of the fees for students  
9 eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Traffic safety education  
10 fees collected by a school district shall be deposited with the county  
11 treasurer to the credit of such school district, to be used to pay  
12 costs of the traffic safety education course.

13 **Sec. 3.** RCW 28A.220.900 and 1991 c 217 s 1 are each amended to  
14 read as follows:

15 It is the purpose of this ~~((act))~~ chapter to ~~((provide the~~  
16 ~~financial assistance necessary to enable))~~ establish standards for each  
17 high school district ~~((to offer))~~ offering a course in traffic safety  
18 education and by that means to develop in the youth of this state a  
19 knowledge of the motor vehicle laws, an acceptance of personal  
20 responsibility on the public highways, and an understanding of the  
21 causes and consequences of traffic accidents, with an emphasis on the  
22 consequences, both physical and legal, of the use of drugs or alcohol  
23 in relation to operating a motor vehicle. The course in traffic safety  
24 education shall further provide to the youthful drivers of this state  
25 training in the skills necessary for the safe operation of motor  
26 vehicles.

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