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SENATE BILL 6547

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State of Washington 57th Legislature

2002 Regular Session

By Senators Haugen, Johnson, Eide, Horn, Spanel, Gardner, Benton, Winsley, Hale, Regala and Hewitt

Read first time 01/21/2002. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to traffic safety education for persons under the  
2 age of eighteen; and amending RCW 46.20.100, 46.20.055, and 46.20.070.

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

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 46.20.100 and 1999 c 274 s 14 are each amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 (1) **Application.** The application of a person under the age of  
7 eighteen years for a driver's license or a motorcycle endorsement must  
8 be signed by a parent or guardian with custody of the minor. If the  
9 person under the age of eighteen has no father, mother, or guardian,  
10 then the application must be signed by the minor's employer.

11 (2) **Traffic safety education requirement.** For a person under the  
12 age of eighteen years to obtain a driver's license he or she must meet  
13 the traffic safety education requirements of this subsection.

14 (a) To meet the traffic safety education requirement for a driver's  
15 license the applicant must satisfactorily complete a traffic safety  
16 education course as defined in RCW 28A.220.020 for a course offered by  
17 a school district, or as defined by the department of licensing for a  
18 course offered by a driver training school licensed under chapter 46.82  
19 RCW. The course offered by a school district must meet the standards

1 established by the office of the state superintendent of public  
2 instruction. The course offered by a driver training school must meet  
3 the standards established by the department of licensing. The traffic  
4 safety education course may be provided by:

5 (i) A recognized secondary school; or

6 (ii) A (~~commercial driving enterprise~~) driver training school  
7 licensed under chapter 46.82 RCW that is annually approved by the  
8 (~~office of the superintendent of public instruction~~) department of  
9 licensing.

10 (b) To meet the traffic safety education requirement for a  
11 motorcycle endorsement, the applicant must successfully complete a  
12 motorcycle safety education course that meets the standards established  
13 by the department of licensing.

14 (c) The department may waive the traffic safety education  
15 requirement for a driver's license if the applicant demonstrates to the  
16 department's satisfaction that:

17 (i) He or she was unable to take or complete a traffic safety  
18 education course;

19 (ii) A need exists for the applicant to operate a motor vehicle;  
20 and

21 (iii) He or she has the ability to operate a motor vehicle in such  
22 a manner as not to jeopardize the safety of persons or property.

23 The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection (2)(c) in  
24 concert with the supervisor of the traffic safety education section of  
25 the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

26 (d) The department may waive the traffic safety education  
27 requirement if the applicant was licensed to drive a motor vehicle or  
28 motorcycle outside this state and provides proof that he or she has had  
29 education equivalent to that required under this subsection.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 46.20.055 and 1999 c 274 s 13 are each amended to read  
31 as follows:

32 (1) **Driver's instruction permit.** The department may issue a  
33 driver's instruction permit with a photograph to an applicant who has  
34 successfully passed all parts of the examination other than the driving  
35 test, provided the information required by RCW 46.20.091, paid a five-  
36 dollar fee, and meets the following requirements:

37 (a) Is at least fifteen and one-half years of age; or

38 (b) Is at least fifteen years of age and:

1 (i) Has submitted a proper application; and  
2 (ii) Is enrolled in a traffic safety education program offered,  
3 approved, and accredited by the superintendent of public instruction or  
4 offered by a driving training school that meets standards adopted by  
5 the department of licensing, that includes practice driving.

6 (2) **Nonphoto permit fee.** An applicant who meets the requirements  
7 of subsection (1) of this section other than payment of the five-dollar  
8 fee may obtain a driver's instruction permit without a photograph by  
9 paying a fee of four dollars.

10 (3) **Waiver of written examination for instruction permit.** The  
11 department may waive the written examination, if, at the time of  
12 application, an applicant is enrolled in:

13 (a) A traffic safety education course as defined by RCW  
14 28A.220.020(2); or

15 (b) A course of instruction offered by a licensed driver training  
16 school as defined by RCW 46.82.280(1).

17 The department may require proof of registration in such a course  
18 as it deems necessary.

19 (4) **Effect of instruction permit.** A person holding a driver's  
20 instruction permit may drive a motor vehicle, other than a motorcycle,  
21 upon the public highways if:

22 (a) The person has immediate possession of the permit; and

23 (b) An approved instructor, or a licensed driver with at least five  
24 years of driving experience, occupies the seat beside the driver.

25 (5) **Term of instruction permit.** A driver's instruction permit is  
26 valid for one year from the date of issue.

27 (a) The department may issue one additional one-year permit.

28 (b) The department may issue a third driver's permit if it finds  
29 after an investigation that the permittee is diligently seeking to  
30 improve driving proficiency.

31 **Sec. 3.** RCW 46.20.070 and 1999 c 6 s 13 are each amended to read  
32 as follows:

33 (1) **Agricultural driving permit authorized.** The director may issue  
34 a juvenile agricultural driving permit to a person under the age of  
35 eighteen years if:

36 (a) The application is signed by the applicant and the applicant's  
37 father, mother, or legal guardian;

1 (b) The applicant has passed the driving examination required by  
2 RCW 46.20.120;

3 (c) The department has investigated the applicant's need for the  
4 permit and determined that the need justifies issuance;

5 (d) The department has determined the applicant is capable of  
6 operating a motor vehicle without endangering himself or herself or  
7 other persons and property; and

8 (e) The applicant has paid a fee of three dollars.

9 The permit must contain a photograph of the person.

10 (2) **Effect of agricultural driving permit.** (a) The permit  
11 authorizes the holder to:

12 (i) Drive a motor vehicle on the public highways of this state in  
13 connection with farm work. The holder may drive only within a  
14 restricted farming locality described on the permit; and

15 (ii) Participate in the classroom portion of a traffic safety  
16 education course authorized under RCW 28A.220.030 or the classroom  
17 portion of a traffic safety education course offered by a driver  
18 training school that meets standards adopted by the department of  
19 licensing, offered in the community where the holder resides.

20 (b) The director may transfer the permit from one farming locality  
21 to another. A transfer is not a renewal of the permit.

22 (3) **Term and renewal of agricultural driving permit.** An  
23 agricultural driving permit expires one year from the date of issue.

24 (a) A person under the age of eighteen who holds a permit may renew  
25 the permit by paying a three-dollar fee.

26 (b) An agricultural driving permit is invalidated when a permittee  
27 attains age eighteen. In order to drive a motor vehicle on a highway  
28 he or she must obtain a motor vehicle driver's license under this  
29 chapter.

30 (4) **Suspension, revocation, or cancellation.** The director has sole  
31 discretion to suspend, revoke, or cancel a juvenile agricultural  
32 driving permit if:

33 (a) The permittee has been found to have committed an offense that  
34 requires mandatory suspension or revocation of a driver's license; or

35 (b) The director is satisfied that the permittee has violated the  
36 permit's restrictions.

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