

FINAL BILL REPORT

SHB 1953

C 258 L 07

Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Requiring premium reductions for older insureds completing an accident prevention course.

Sponsors: By House Committee on Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection (originally sponsored by Representatives Wood, Buri, Wallace, Rodne, Schindler, Ahern, Morrell and Ormsby).

House Committee on Insurance, Financial Services & Consumer Protection
Senate Committee on Financial Institutions & Insurance

Background:

The Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) oversees the insurance industry in this state. Automobile insurance policies and rates are submitted to the OIC for approval. Automobile insurance rates filed with the OIC must provide for an appropriate reduction in premiums for a two-year period for insured drivers who:

- are 55 years of age and older; and
- successfully completed a motor vehicle accident prevention course meeting the criteria of the Department of Licensing (DOL).

The rating discount does not apply to underinsured motorist coverage.

A course must be a minimum of eight hours. It may be for additional hours as determined by rule by the DOL. The course must be offered in a classroom by a public or a private agency approved by the DOL. In areas where a classroom course is not offered, an eight-hour self-instruction course must be made available. The self-instruction course may be conducted only by a public or private agency approved by the DOL to offer a classroom course.

Upon completion of a course, a participant must be issued a certificate that is the basis for qualifying for the premium discount. A driver may take a course every two years to maintain the discount.

Summary:

An eight-hour course meeting the criteria of the DOL may be offered via an alternative delivery method of instruction. An alternative delivery method of instruction may include internet, video, or other technology-based delivery methods.

An agency seeking approval from the DOL to offer an alternative delivery method course of instruction is not required to conduct classroom courses.

An alternative delivery method course of instruction is not limited to areas where a classroom course is not offered.

The DOL may adopt rules to ensure that drivers take and complete courses delivered by alternative methods.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0
Senate	47	0

Effective: July 22, 2007