
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1159

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By House Transportation (originally sponsored by Representatives Pike, Wylie, Moeller, Zeiger, Kochmar, Harmsworth, and Ryu)

READ FIRST TIME 02/19/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to the safety of new drivers; adding a new
2 section to chapter 46.20 RCW; creating new sections; and providing an
3 expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that young drivers
6 are involved in a disproportional number of traffic accidents and
7 fatalities in the state. The legislature intends to reduce these
8 accident rates by requiring the display of decals announcing new
9 drivers to alert other drivers that inexperienced drivers are sharing
10 the roadway with them and to keep a safe distance.

11 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** This act may be known and cited as the
12 teen driving safety act.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.20
14 RCW to read as follows:

15 (1)(a) By July 1, 2016, the department, in consultation with the
16 Washington traffic safety commission, must establish a pilot program
17 requiring a driver under eighteen years of age to affix a decal to
18 any vehicle he or she is driving.

1 (b) This pilot program may be operated only in counties with a
2 population of at least three hundred fifty thousand that border the
3 Columbia river.

4 (2) Under this pilot program, a person who is under eighteen
5 years of age and operating a motor vehicle must affix a new driver
6 decal to the inside of the motor vehicle's rear window on the lower
7 portion of the passenger side of that window. The decal must be
8 displayed any time a vehicle is being operated by a person under
9 eighteen years of age.

10 (a) For the purposes of this section, "new driver decal" means a
11 decal indicating that the person operating the vehicle is under
12 eighteen years of age. The decal must: (i) Be at least twelve inches
13 wide and four inches high; (ii) display the words "NEW DRIVER" in
14 white lettering on a red background; and (iii) be printed on a
15 material, such as a static cling, UV-resistant vinyl, which allows
16 the decal to be easily removed and reused.

17 (b)(i) Upon a person's application for a driver's instruction
18 permit, intermediate license, or driver's license, the department may
19 provide a new driver decal to the applicant if he or she is under
20 eighteen years of age and may offer the new driver decal to any other
21 applicant. The department must charge a fee to the applicant equal to
22 the cost of producing and issuing the new driver decal. The
23 department must provide replacement decals at the same cost to any
24 permit or license holder who requests a replacement.

25 (ii) The new driver decal may also be provided by private driver
26 training schools licensed under chapter 46.82 RCW and by public
27 schools providing traffic safety education pursuant to chapter
28 28A.220 RCW.

29 (3) A person who violates this section must perform twenty hours
30 of community service, but the violation is not a traffic infraction
31 under this title.

32 (4) By December 31, 2019, the department must provide a report to
33 the legislature regarding the implementation of the pilot program,
34 the program's impact on public safety, and recommendations regarding
35 statewide implementation.

36 (5) This section expires July 1, 2020.

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