
HOUSE BILL 1159

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Representatives Pike, Wylie, Moeller, Zeiger, Kochmar, Harmsworth,
and Ryu

Read first time 01/14/15. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to the safety of new drivers; amending RCW
2 46.20.055 and 46.20.075; adding a new section to chapter 46.20 RCW;
3 creating new sections; prescribing penalties; and providing an
4 expiration date.

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

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

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

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

16 (1) A person who is under nineteen years of age and operating a
17 motor vehicle must affix a new driver decal to the inside of the
18 motor vehicle's rear window on the lower portion of the passenger

1 side of that window. The decal must be displayed any time a vehicle
2 is being operated by a person under nineteen years of age.

3 (a) For the purposes of this section, "new driver decal" means a
4 decal issued by the department, indicating that the person operating
5 the vehicle is under nineteen years of age. The decal must: (i) Be at
6 least twelve inches wide and four inches high; (ii) display the words
7 "NEW DRIVER" in white lettering on a red background; and (iii) be
8 printed on a material, such as a static cling, UV-resistant vinyl,
9 which allows the decal to be easily removed and reused.

10 (b) Upon a person's application for a driver's instruction
11 permit, intermediate license, or driver's license, the department
12 must provide a new driver decal to the applicant if he or she is
13 under nineteen years of age and may offer the new driver decal to any
14 other applicant. The department must charge a fee to the applicant
15 equal to the cost of producing the new driver decal. The department
16 must provide replacement decals at the same cost to any permit or
17 license holder who requests a replacement.

18 (2) A failure to properly display a new driver decal as required
19 under this section is a traffic infraction with a monetary penalty of
20 up to two hundred fifty dollars.

21 **Sec. 4.** RCW 46.20.055 and 2012 c 80 s 5 are each amended to read
22 as follows:

23 (1) **Driver's instruction permit.** The department may issue a
24 driver's instruction permit with or without a photograph to an
25 applicant who has successfully passed all parts of the examination
26 other than the driving test, provided the information required by RCW
27 46.20.091, paid an application fee of twenty-five dollars, and meets
28 the following requirements:

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

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

31 (i) Has submitted a proper application; and

32 (ii) Is enrolled in a traffic safety education program offered,
33 approved, and accredited by the superintendent of public instruction
34 or offered by a driver training school licensed and inspected by the
35 department of licensing under chapter 46.82 RCW, that includes
36 practice driving.

37 (2) **Waiver of written examination for instruction permit.** The
38 department may waive the written examination, if, at the time of
39 application, an applicant is enrolled in:

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

3 (b) A course of instruction offered by a licensed driver training
4 school as defined by RCW 46.82.280.

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

7 (3) **Effect of instruction permit.** A person holding a driver's
8 instruction permit may drive a motor vehicle, other than a
9 motorcycle, upon the public highways if:

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

11 (b) The person is not using a wireless communications device,
12 unless the person is using the device to report illegal activity,
13 summon medical or other emergency help, or prevent injury to a person
14 or property; ~~((and))~~

15 (c) An approved instructor, or a licensed driver with at least
16 five years of driving experience, occupies the seat beside the
17 driver; and

18 (d) The new driver decal is displayed on the motor vehicle being
19 operated as required under section 3 of this act.

20 (4) **Term of instruction permit.** A driver's instruction permit is
21 valid for one year from the date of issue.

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

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

26 (c) A person applying for an additional instruction permit must
27 submit the application to the department in person and pay an
28 application fee of twenty-five dollars for each issuance.

29 **Sec. 5.** RCW 46.20.075 and 2011 c 60 s 44 are each amended to
30 read as follows:

31 (1) An intermediate license authorizes the holder to drive a
32 motor vehicle under the conditions specified in this section. An
33 applicant for an intermediate license must be at least sixteen years
34 of age and:

35 (a) Have possessed a valid instruction permit for a period of not
36 less than six months;

37 (b) Have passed a driver licensing examination administered by
38 the department;

1 (c) Have passed a course of driver's education in accordance with
2 the standards established in RCW 46.20.100;

3 (d) Present certification by his or her parent, guardian, or
4 employer to the department stating (i) that the applicant has had at
5 least fifty hours of driving experience, ten of which were at night,
6 during which the driver was supervised by a person at least twenty-
7 one years of age who has had a valid driver's license for at least
8 three years, and (ii) that the applicant has not been issued a notice
9 of traffic infraction or cited for a traffic violation that is
10 pending at the time of the application for the intermediate license;

11 (e) Not have been convicted of or found to have committed a
12 traffic violation within the last six months before the application
13 for the intermediate license; and

14 (f) Not have been adjudicated for an offense involving the use of
15 alcohol or drugs during the period the applicant held an instruction
16 permit.

17 (2) For the first six months after the issuance of an
18 intermediate license or until the holder reaches eighteen years of
19 age, whichever occurs first, the holder of the license may not
20 operate a motor vehicle that is carrying any passengers under the age
21 of twenty who are not members of the holder's immediate family as
22 defined in RCW 42.17A.005. For the remaining period of the
23 intermediate license, the holder may not operate a motor vehicle that
24 is carrying more than three passengers who are under the age of
25 twenty who are not members of the holder's immediate family.

26 (3) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a motor
27 vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. except when the holder
28 is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or a licensed driver who is at
29 least twenty-five years of age.

30 (4) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a
31 moving motor vehicle while using a wireless communications device
32 unless the holder is using the device to report illegal activity,
33 summon medical or other emergency help, or prevent injury to a person
34 or property.

35 (5) It is a traffic infraction for the holder of an intermediate
36 license to operate a motor vehicle in violation of the restrictions
37 imposed under this section.

38 (6) Except for a violation of subsections (4) and (9) of this
39 section, enforcement of this section by law enforcement officers may
40 be accomplished only as a secondary action when a driver of a motor

1 vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation of this title or
2 an equivalent local ordinance or some other offense.

3 (7) An intermediate licensee may drive at any hour without
4 restrictions on the number of passengers in the vehicle if necessary
5 for agricultural purposes.

6 (8) An intermediate licensee may drive at any hour without
7 restrictions on the number of passengers in the vehicle if, for the
8 twelve-month period following the issuance of the intermediate
9 license, he or she:

10 (a) Has not been involved in an accident involving only one motor
11 vehicle;

12 (b) Has not been involved in an accident where he or she was
13 cited in connection with the accident or was found to have caused the
14 accident;

15 (c) Has not been involved in an accident where no one was cited
16 or was found to have caused the accident; and

17 (d) Has not been convicted of or found to have committed a
18 traffic offense described in chapter 46.61 RCW or violated
19 restrictions placed on an intermediate licensee under this section.

20 (9) An intermediate licensee may not operate a motor vehicle
21 unless a new driver decal is displayed on the motor vehicle as
22 required under section 3 of this act.

23 NEW SECTION. Sec. 6. This act expires December 31, 2021.

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