
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5816

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Lias, Benton, Rivers, Jayapal, and McAuliffe)

READ FIRST TIME 02/27/15.

1 AN ACT Relating to reducing traffic fatalities and serious
2 injuries through improved traffic safety education; adding new
3 sections to chapter 46.20 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.68
4 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 46.82 RCW; creating new
5 sections; and providing an effective date.

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

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the goals and
8 objectives of reaching zero fatalities and crashes on our highways
9 and roads by 2030 needs to start now. The legislature further finds
10 that the "Strategic Highway Safety Plan, Target Zero," has identified
11 motor vehicle crashes as a leading cause of death in young drivers
12 between ages sixteen and twenty-five, making this group a priority
13 level one, along with speeding, impaired driving, and distracted
14 driving of any driver age group in the state. The legislature further
15 finds that while some young drivers are receiving a driver's
16 education in their early teens, the research studies have shown young
17 drivers are more likely to crash for two principal reasons:
18 Inexperience and immaturity. For these reasons, it is the intent of
19 the legislature to not only help these young drivers save their lives
20 but to make our roads and highways safe for all drivers by requiring
21 that young drivers who have had no driver's education attend and pass

1 a young driver risk prevention traffic safety course before becoming
2 licensed to drive in Washington state.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 46.20
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Any person eighteen to twenty-four years of age who is
6 applying for his or her first Washington state driver's license and
7 who did not complete a course in traffic safety education as required
8 under RCW 46.20.100 must complete a young driver risk prevention
9 traffic safety course that complies with the requirements of section
10 5 of this act and is offered by a licensed driver training school
11 under chapter 46.82 RCW.

12 (2) Any person who holds a valid driver's license from another
13 state and who is applying for a Washington state driver's license is
14 exempt from the requirements in this section if:

15 (a) He or she has held that out-of-state driver's license for at
16 least one year;

17 (b) He or she completed a driver training course in the other
18 state that was comparable to Washington driver training course
19 standards as determined by the department; or

20 (c) He or she is an active member of the armed forces.

21 (3) The director may waive the course requirement under this
22 section if the applicant demonstrates to the department's
23 satisfaction that:

24 (a) He or she was unable to take or complete a traffic safety
25 education course; and

26 (b) A need exists for the applicant to operate a motor vehicle.

27 (4) The director must assess a fee of no more than five dollars
28 upon every applicant for a driver's license that is required to
29 complete a young driver risk prevention traffic safety course under
30 this section. Fees collected under this section must be deposited in
31 the young driver safety education account created in section 4 of
32 this act.

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

35 (1) The young driver safety education program is created within
36 the department to provide financial assistance to indigent persons
37 who are required to enroll in a young driver risk prevention traffic
38 safety course under section 2 of this act. Financial assistance may

1 include a full or partial subsidy voucher. For the purposes of this
2 section, indigency criteria must be determined by the department in
3 consultation with a statewide organization that represents
4 disadvantaged communities.

5 (2) The department may receive gifts, grants, or endowments from
6 private sources, which must be deposited in the young driver safety
7 education account created in section 4 of this act.

8 (3) The department may adopt rules as necessary to carry out this
9 section.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 46.68
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 The young driver safety education account is created in the
13 highway safety fund. All receipts from fees collected under section
14 2(4) of this act and from contributions under section 3(2) of this
15 act must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be
16 spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be
17 used only for the administration of the young driver safety education
18 program under section 3 of this act.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 46.82
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1)(a) In addition to a course that meets curriculum standards
22 under RCW 46.82.420 intended for persons seeking a driver's license
23 under RCW 46.20.100, a licensed driver training school must offer a
24 young driver risk prevention traffic safety course that complies with
25 the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

26 (b) The director may waive the requirement under (a) of this
27 subsection if a driver training school can demonstrate that offering
28 a young driver risk prevention traffic safety course is a hardship.

29 (2) A young driver risk prevention traffic safety course required
30 under section 2 of this act must comply with the following
31 requirements:

32 (a) The course must be no more than ten hours, three hours of
33 which must include behind-the-wheel instruction and the remainder of
34 which may be online;

35 (b) The course must be able to be completed in a reasonable time,
36 as determined by the department, to not unduly delay an applicant
37 from obtaining a Washington state driver's license;

1 (c) The course must meet minimum curriculum requirements as
2 determined by the department, in consultation with the traffic safety
3 commission and other stakeholders, providing information about, among
4 other things: (i) The dangers of distracted driving; (ii) safe
5 driving techniques concerning hazards, such as severe weather,
6 sharing the road with other vehicles and pedestrians, and driving in
7 construction and school zones; (iii) the duties incumbent upon
8 drivers, such as insurance and registration requirements and steps
9 drivers must take after an accident; and (iv) the effects of alcohol
10 and drug use on motor vehicle operators, including information on
11 drug and alcohol-related traffic injury and mortality rates in the
12 state of Washington and the current penalties for driving under the
13 influence of drugs or alcohol; and

14 (d) Behind-the-wheel instruction must consist of basic skills and
15 maneuvers to be determined by the department.

16 (3) The department must establish standards and requirements to
17 ensure timely access to high-quality, affordable young driver risk
18 prevention traffic safety courses throughout the state.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** By December 2017, the department of
20 licensing, in consultation with the traffic safety commission and
21 other stakeholders, must report to the transportation committees of
22 the legislature and the governor on strategies for addressing high-
23 risk drivers. The recommendations must include preliminary results of
24 the expansion of traffic safety education to eighteen to twenty-four
25 year olds under this act.

26 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** On January 1, 2017, the state treasurer
27 must transfer one hundred thousand dollars from the highway safety
28 fund to the young driver safety education account created under
29 section 4 of this act.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** This act takes effect January 1, 2017.

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