
HOUSE BILL 1122

State of Washington 57th Legislature 2001 Regular Session

By Representatives Miloscia, Fisher and Morell

Read first time 01/17/2001. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to drivers' education; adding a new section to
2 chapter 46.20 RCW; creating new sections; making an appropriation;
3 providing an effective date; providing expiration dates; and
4 declaring an emergency.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** With more than 45,000 reported traffic
7 accidents each year, average daily traffic counts as high as
8 264,000 vehicles per day in the downtown Seattle area, and average
9 daily traffic counts growing by 2.61 percent annually, the need
10 for mitigating the frustration and rage experienced by drivers is
11 immediate. Further, since drivers are generally required to pass a
12 written driver's exam and driving skills test only once in their
13 lifetime, a significant amount of driving information may be
14 forgotten. Therefore, it is necessary to initiate a driver
15 education campaign in order to help create safer driving
16 conditions on our state highways. This commercial campaign will
17 review useful driving knowledge and skills that will stimulate
18 defensive driving, resulting in a reduction of traffic accidents

1 and a decrease in aggressive driving. The campaign will respond to
2 support for license renewal testing by addressing traffic
3 education, without the expense of mandatory tests.

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The drivers education task force,
5 consisting of representatives from the department of
6 transportation, the department of licensing, the traffic safety
7 commission, and the state patrol is created. The drivers education
8 task force will develop a detailed work plan, budget, marketing
9 strategy, and performance measures by September 1, 2001. As soon
10 thereafter as possible, the task force shall develop and deploy a
11 series of advertisements using radio, television, billboards, and
12 other media as practicable that target those drivers who are most
13 at risk of causing accidents or engaging in acts of road rage. The
14 ad campaign shall run for at least twelve months. In addition, the
15 task force shall develop a web site to coincide with the ad
16 campaign to monitor the targets' response. This web site will be a
17 forum for the public to voice its opinions about the campaign. This
18 site will be a tool for the state to monitor general comments,
19 concerns, and questions regarding traffic safety.

20 At the conclusion of the twelve-month ad campaign, the task
21 force shall collate the web site responses and conduct a random
22 survey of targeted drivers to determine whether or not the drivers
23 believed the ads made any difference in their driving
24 behaviors. These results, along with traffic accident data, will
25 help the task force to determine whether or not their efforts were
26 successful. The task force shall summarize these results and
27 present them to the legislature no later than December 31,
28 2002. This section expires July 1, 2003.

29 The legislature may extend the campaign for a longer period of
30 time if the web site shows that the commercials are helpful in
31 reducing dangerous driving.

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

34 A surcharge of fifty cents is imposed on each initial driver's
35 license fee and on each driver's license renewal fee for the

1 support of the drivers education task force. This section expires
2 July 1, 2003.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of one million dollars, or as much
4 thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the biennium
5 ending June 30, 2003, from the motor vehicle fund to the
6 department of transportation for the purpose of supporting the
7 activities of the drivers education task force.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** This act is necessary for the immediate
9 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
10 the state government and its existing public institutions, and
11 takes effect July 1, 2001.

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