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SENATE BILL 6503

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State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators Lias and Angel

Read first time 01/30/14. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding the delivery of traffic safety  
2 education; adding new sections to chapter 46.82 RCW; and adding a new  
3 section to chapter 46.20 RCW.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 46.82 RCW  
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The department may establish a pilot project to provide an  
8 online option to fulfill the traffic safety education requirements  
9 under RCW 46.20.100.

10 (2) The pilot project must be limited to one thousand students. At  
11 least forty percent of these students must reside east of the crest of  
12 the Cascade mountains.

13 (3) The department must adopt rules implementing this section  
14 before students begin receiving online traffic safety education. The  
15 department's rules must include the following:

16 (a) Direction for how online material will be provided, either by  
17 the department or private driver training schools licensed under this  
18 chapter, or a partnership agreement between the two;

1 (b) Requirements for in-person training to supplement the online  
2 training curriculum; and

3 (c) Standards for determining whether students are meeting  
4 educational requirements.

5 (4)(a) Within six months after the conclusion of the pilot project,  
6 the department must provide a report to the legislature regarding the  
7 success of online delivery of traffic safety education.

8 (b) This report must include the following information: (i) A  
9 summary of student performance compared to students' performance in  
10 traditional in-person education; (ii) a cost comparison between the  
11 pilot project and in-person education; and (iii) a recommendation to  
12 the legislature as to whether or not the pilot project should be  
13 expanded, including suggestions regarding how an online traffic safety  
14 education program could be improved.

15 (5) The pilot project ends upon the one thousandth student  
16 completing the online traffic safety education course or June 30, 2016,  
17 whichever is earlier.

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

20 (1) Any person eighteen to twenty-four years of age who is applying  
21 for his or her first Washington state driver's license and who did not  
22 complete a course in traffic safety education as required under RCW  
23 46.20.100 must complete a young driver risk prevention traffic safety  
24 course that complies with the requirements of section 3 of this act and  
25 is offered by a licensed driver training school.

26 (2) Any person who holds a valid driver's license from his or her  
27 previous home state and who is applying for a Washington state driver's  
28 license is exempt from the requirements in this section if he or she  
29 has held that out-of-state driver's license for at least one year.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 46.82 RCW  
31 to read as follows:

32 (1) In addition to the basic curriculum required under RCW  
33 46.82.420, a driver training school may offer a young driver risk  
34 prevention traffic safety course that complies with the requirements of  
35 subsection (2) of this section.

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

4 (a) The course must be able to be completed in a reasonable time to  
5 not unduly delay an applicant from obtaining a Washington state  
6 driver's license;

7 (b) The course must meet minimum curriculum requirements developed  
8 by the department, providing information about, among other things:

9 (i) The dangers of distracted driving; (ii) safe driving techniques  
10 concerning hazards such as severe weather, sharing the road with other  
11 vehicles and pedestrians, and driving in construction and school zones;  
12 and (iii) the duties incumbent upon drivers, such as insurance and  
13 registration requirements and steps drivers must take after an  
14 accident; and

15 (c) Behind the wheel training must consist of basic skills and  
16 maneuvers to be determined by the department.

17 (3) If the director is presented with acceptable proof that any  
18 licensed instructor or driver training school is not showing proper  
19 diligence in teaching the basic minimum curriculum as required under  
20 subsection (2) of this section, the instructor or school must appear  
21 before the director and show cause why the license of the instructor or  
22 school should not be revoked for such negligence. If the director does  
23 not accept such reasons as may be offered, the director may revoke the  
24 license of the instructor or school, or both.

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