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SENATE BILL 6594

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2016 Regular Session

By Senators Lias, Rivers, Fain, Habib, and King

Read first time 01/28/16. Referred to Committee on Transportation.

1            AN ACT Relating to improving the safety of young drivers on the  
2 road in Washington state through improved traffic safety education  
3 and the expansion of current law regarding intermediate licenses;  
4 amending RCW 46.20.075; adding new sections to chapter 46.20 RCW;  
5 adding a new section to chapter 46.82 RCW; adding a new section to  
6 chapter 46.68 RCW; and providing effective dates.

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

8            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    A new section is added to chapter 46.20  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10            (1) Any person eighteen to twenty-one years of age who is  
11 applying for his or her first Washington state driver's license and  
12 who did not complete a course in traffic safety education as required  
13 under RCW 46.20.100 must complete a young driver risk prevention  
14 traffic safety course that complies with the requirements of section  
15 3 of this act and is offered by a licensed driver training school  
16 under chapter 46.82 RCW.

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

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

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

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

5 (3) The director may waive the course requirement under this  
6 section if the applicant demonstrates to the department's  
7 satisfaction that:

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

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

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

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

19 (1) The young driver safety education program is created within  
20 the department to provide financial assistance to indigent persons  
21 who are required to enroll in a young driver risk prevention traffic  
22 safety course under section 1 of this act. Financial assistance may  
23 include a full or partial subsidy voucher. For the purposes of this  
24 section, indigency criteria must be determined by the department in  
25 consultation with a statewide organization that represents  
26 disadvantaged communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 (c) The course must meet minimum curriculum requirements as  
14 determined by the department, in consultation with the traffic safety  
15 commission and other stakeholders, providing information about, among  
16 other things: (i) The dangers of distracted driving; (ii) safe  
17 driving techniques concerning hazards, such as severe weather,  
18 sharing the road with other vehicles and pedestrians, and driving in  
19 construction and school zones; (iii) the duties incumbent upon  
20 drivers, such as insurance and registration requirements and steps  
21 drivers must take after an accident; and (iv) the effects of alcohol  
22 and drug use on motor vehicle operators, including information on  
23 drug and alcohol-related traffic injury and mortality rates in the  
24 state of Washington and the current penalties for driving under the  
25 influence of drugs or alcohol; and

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

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

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

33 The young driver safety education account is created in the  
34 highway safety fund. All receipts from fees collected under section  
35 1(4) of this act and from contributions under section 2(2) of this  
36 act must be deposited into the account. Moneys in the account may be  
37 spent only after appropriation. Expenditures from the account may be  
38 used only for the administration of the young driver safety education  
39 program under section 2 of this act.

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

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

7       (a) Have possessed a valid instruction permit for a period of not  
8 less than (~~six months~~) one year;

9       (b) Have passed a driver licensing examination administered by  
10 the department;

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

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

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

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

27       (2) For the first (~~six months~~) year after the issuance of an  
28 intermediate license or until the holder reaches eighteen years of  
29 age, whichever occurs first, the holder of the license may not  
30 operate a motor vehicle that is carrying any passengers under the age  
31 of twenty who are not members of the holder's immediate family as  
32 defined in RCW 42.17A.005. For the remaining period of the  
33 intermediate license, the holder may not operate a motor vehicle that  
34 is carrying more than three passengers who are under the age of  
35 twenty who are not members of the holder's immediate family.

36       (3) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a motor  
37 vehicle between the hours of (~~1 a.m.~~) 9:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m.  
38 except when the holder is accompanied by a parent, guardian, or a  
39 licensed driver who is at least twenty-five years of age.

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

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

9 (6) Except for a violation of subsection (4) of this section,  
10 enforcement of this section by law enforcement officers may be  
11 accomplished only as a secondary action when a driver of a motor  
12 vehicle has been detained for a suspected violation of this title or  
13 an equivalent local ordinance or some other offense.

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** Section 5 of this act takes effect January  
32 1, 2017.

33 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** Except for section 5 of this act, this act  
34 takes effect January 1, 2018.

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