

RCW 46.20.100 Persons under eighteen. (Effective until January 1, 2025.) (1) **Application.** The application of a person under the age of eighteen years for a driver's license or a motorcycle endorsement must be signed by a parent or guardian with custody of the minor. If the person under the age of eighteen has no father, mother, or guardian, then the application must be signed by the minor's employer.

(2) **Traffic safety education requirement.** For a person under the age of eighteen years to obtain a driver's license, he or she must meet the traffic safety education requirements of this subsection.

(a) To meet the traffic safety education requirement for a driver's license, the applicant must satisfactorily complete a driver training education course as defined in RCW 28A.220.020 for a course offered by a school district or approved private school, or as defined by the department of licensing for a course offered by a driver training school licensed under chapter 46.82 RCW. The course offered by a school district or an approved private school must be part of a traffic safety education program authorized by the office of the superintendent of public instruction and certified under chapter 28A.220 RCW. The course offered by a driver training school must meet the standards established by the department of licensing under chapter 46.82 RCW. The driver training education course may be provided by:

(i) A secondary school within a school district or approved private school that establishes and maintains an approved and certified traffic safety education program under chapter 28A.220 RCW; or

(ii) A driver training school licensed under chapter 46.82 RCW that is annually approved by the department of licensing.

(b) To meet the traffic safety education requirement for a motorcycle endorsement, the applicant must successfully complete a motorcycle safety education course that meets the standards established by the department of licensing.

(c) The department may waive the driver training education course requirement for a driver's license if the applicant demonstrates to the department's satisfaction that:

(i) He or she was unable to take or complete a driver training education course;

(ii) A need exists for the applicant to operate a motor vehicle; and

(iii) He or she has the ability to operate a motor vehicle in such a manner as not to jeopardize the safety of persons or property. The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection (2)(c) in concert with the supervisor of the traffic safety education section of the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

(d) The department may waive the driver training education course requirement if the applicant was licensed to drive a motor vehicle or motorcycle outside this state and provides proof that he or she has had education equivalent to that required under this subsection.

[2017 c 197 s 7; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 s 18; 2002 c 195 s 1; 1999 c 274 s 14; 1999 c 6 s 16; 1990 c 250 s 36; 1985 c 234 s 2; 1979 c 158 s 146; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 87; 1972 ex.s. c 71 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 218 s 10; 1967 c 167 s 1; 1965 ex.s. c 170 s 43; 1961 c 12 s 46.20.100. Prior: 1937 c 188 s 51; RRS s 6312-51; 1921 c 108 s 6, part; RRS s 6368, part.]

Findings—Intent—Effective date—2017 c 197: See notes following RCW 28A.220.020.

Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7: See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Intent—1999 c 6: See note following RCW 46.04.168.

Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154: See note following RCW 2.12.030.

RCW 46.20.100 Persons under 18. (Effective January 1, 2025.)

(1) **Application.** The application of a person under the age of 18 years for a driver's license or a motorcycle endorsement must be signed by a parent, guardian, employer, or responsible adult as defined in RCW 46.20.075.

(2) **Traffic safety education requirement.** For a person under the age of 18 years to obtain a driver's license, he or she must meet the traffic safety education requirements of this subsection.

(a) To meet the traffic safety education requirement for a driver's license, the applicant must satisfactorily complete a driver training education course as defined in RCW 28A.220.020 for a course offered by a school district or approved private school, or as defined by the department of licensing for a course offered by a driver training school licensed under chapter 46.82 RCW. The course offered by a school district or an approved private school must be part of a traffic safety education program authorized by the office of the superintendent of public instruction and certified under chapter 28A.220 RCW. The course offered by a driver training school must meet the standards established by the department of licensing under chapter 46.82 RCW. The driver training education course may be provided by:

(i) A secondary school within a school district or approved private school that establishes and maintains an approved and certified traffic safety education program under chapter 28A.220 RCW; or

(ii) A driver training school licensed under chapter 46.82 RCW that is annually approved by the department of licensing.

(b) To meet the traffic safety education requirement for a motorcycle endorsement, the applicant must successfully complete a motorcycle safety education course that meets the standards established by the department of licensing.

(c) The department may waive the driver training education course requirement for a driver's license if the applicant demonstrates to the department's satisfaction that:

(i) He or she was unable to take or complete a driver training education course;

(ii) A need exists for the applicant to operate a motor vehicle; and

(iii) He or she has the ability to operate a motor vehicle in such a manner as not to jeopardize the safety of persons or property. The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection (2)(c) in concert with the supervisor of the traffic safety education section of the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

(d) The department may waive the driver training education course requirement if the applicant was licensed to drive a motor vehicle or motorcycle outside this state and provides proof that he or she has had education equivalent to that required under this subsection.

[2024 c 162 s 2; 2017 c 197 s 7; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7 s 18; 2002 c 195 s

1; 1999 c 274 s 14; 1999 c 6 s 16; 1990 c 250 s 36; 1985 c 234 s 2; 1979 c 158 s 146; 1973 1st ex.s. c 154 s 87; 1972 ex.s. c 71 s 1; 1969 ex.s. c 218 s 10; 1967 c 167 s 1; 1965 ex.s. c 170 s 43; 1961 c 12 s 46.20.100. Prior: 1937 c 188 s 51; RRS s 6312-51; 1921 c 108 s 6, part; RRS s 6368, part.]

Effective date—2024 c 162 ss 1-3: See note following RCW 46.20.075.

Findings—Intent—Effective date—2017 c 197: See notes following RCW 28A.220.020.

Effective date—2010 1st sp.s. c 26; 2010 1st sp.s. c 7: See note following RCW 43.03.027.

Intent—1999 c 6: See note following RCW 46.04.168.

Severability—1973 1st ex.s. c 154: See note following RCW 2.12.030.