CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5583**

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

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| Passed by the Senate April 19, 2023  Yeas 38 Nays 11  **President of the Senate**  Passed by the House April 12, 2023  Yeas 93 Nays 4  **Speaker of the House of Representatives** | CERTIFICATE  I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5583** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.  Secretary |
| Approved |  |
| **Governor of the State of Washington** | **Secretary of State**  **State of Washington** |

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**ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5583**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session**

**By** Senate Transportation (originally sponsored by Senators Liias, C. Wilson, Kauffman, Valdez, Lovelett, Lovick, Nguyen, and Nobles)

AN ACT Relating to improving young driver safety; amending RCW 46.20.075, 46.82.280, and 46.82.330; adding a new section to chapter 46.82 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 39.19 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The department of licensing shall develop a comprehensive implementation plan for the expansion of the current driver training education requirement to obtain a driver's license to persons between the ages of 18 and 24. The target date for implementation of the new driver training education expansion is July 1, 2026. The driver training education expansion plan must be provided to the transportation committees of the legislature by October 1, 2024, and must include, but need not be limited to, the following:

(1) Consideration of courses that could satisfy the new driver training education requirement, including a condensed course option and a self-paced, online course option, with attention to the educational value, monetary and time costs required, and possible accessibility constraints for each course option considered;

(2) An assessment of public and private resources necessary to support the new driver training education requirement to ensure sufficient course availability and accessibility. The assessment must include, but need not be limited to, an inventory of the current number, and an estimate of the increased number required to meet the anticipated need, of the following:

(a) Licensed driver training schools and traffic safety education programs in the state, by geographical region;

(b) Licensed driver training school and traffic safety education instructors;

(c) Licensed driver trainer instructors; and

(d) Driver training education course spaces available per year, by course option and for both classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction;

(3) In consultation with the office of equity, evaluation of access to driver training education courses and consideration of opportunities to improve access to driver training education for young drivers. The assessment must address, but should not be limited to, potential obstacles for young drivers for whom the cost of driver training education may pose a hardship, obstacles related to accessibility for young drivers who reside in rural areas, and obstacles for young drivers whose primary language is not English. The assessment must also include strategies that can be used to mitigate these potential obstacles, including possible exceptions to, or substitutions for, a driver training education requirement in cases where access-related obstacles cannot be overcome, such as when a behind-the-wheel driver training program may not be available within a reasonable distance of a person's residence;

(4) A plan for broad and accessible public outreach and education to communicate to Washington state residents new driver training education requirements, including a plan for the development of tools to assist residents in accessing driver training education courses that meet the new requirements;

(5) Collaboration with educational service districts to determine the extent to which educational service districts can facilitate the coordination between school districts or secondary schools of a school district and driver training schools to increase access to driver training education courses by students who reside within the boundaries of an applicable school district;

(6) An examination of opportunities to address the financial need of persons for whom the cost of driver training education courses licensed by the department of licensing may pose a hardship, through a voucher or other financial assistance program. The examination must include quantified estimates of the extent to which the cost of driver training education could pose a significant obstacle, as well as possible approaches to help reduce or eliminate this obstacle;

(7) An examination, in consultation with the office of the superintendent of public instruction, of opportunities to address the financial need of students for whom the cost of driver training education offered as part of a traffic safety education program may pose a hardship, through a grant or other financial assistance program. The examination must include quantified estimates of the extent to which the cost of driver training education could pose a significant obstacle, as well as possible approaches to help reduce or eliminate this obstacle; and

(8) An assessment of approaches used by other states that require driver training by persons age 18 and older, including examination of how this has impacted traffic safety in the state and the extent to which the requirement may have decreased access to driver's licenses, including through examination of the rate of driver's license holders by age and other demographic characteristics compared to that of neighboring, or otherwise similarly situated, states.

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

(1) An intermediate license authorizes the holder to drive a motor vehicle under the conditions specified in this section. An applicant for an intermediate license must be at least ((~~sixteen~~)) 16 years of age and:

(a) Have possessed a valid instruction permit for a period of not less than six months;

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

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

(d) Present certification by his or her parent, guardian, or employer to the department stating (i) that the applicant has had at least ((~~fifty~~)) 50 hours of driving experience, ((~~ten~~)) 10 of which were at night, during which the driver was supervised by a person at least ((~~twenty-one~~)) 21 years of age who has had a valid driver's license for at least three years, and (ii) that the applicant has not been issued a notice of traffic infraction or cited for a traffic violation that is pending at the time of the application for the intermediate license;

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

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

(2) For the first six months after the issuance of an intermediate license or until the holder reaches ((~~eighteen~~)) 18 years of age, whichever occurs first, the holder of the license may not operate a motor vehicle that is carrying any passengers under the age of ((~~twenty~~)) 20 who are not members of the holder's immediate family ((~~as defined in RCW 42.17A.005~~)). For the remaining period of the intermediate license, the holder may not operate a motor vehicle that is carrying more than three passengers who are under the age of ((~~twenty~~)) 20 who are not members of the holder's immediate family.

(3) The holder of an intermediate license may not operate a motor vehicle between the hours of 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. except (a) when the holder is accompanied by ((~~a parent, guardian, or~~)) a licensed driver who is at least ((~~twenty-five~~)) 25 years of age, or (b) for school, religious, or employment activities for the holder or a member of the holder's immediate family as defined in this section.

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

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

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

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

(8) An intermediate licensee may drive at any hour without restrictions on the number of passengers in the vehicle if, for the ((~~twelve-month~~)) 12-month period following the issuance of the intermediate license, he or she:

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

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

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

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

(9) For the purposes of this section, "immediate family" means an individual's spouse or domestic partner, child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the individual, including foster children living in the household, and the spouse or the domestic partner of any such person, and a child, stepchild, grandchild, parent, stepparent, grandparent, brother, half-brother, sister, or half-sister of the individual's spouse or domestic partner, and the spouse or the domestic partner of any such person.

**Sec.**  RCW 46.82.280 and 2017 c 197 s 8 are each amended to read as follows:

The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Behind-the-wheel instruction" means instruction in an approved driver training school instruction vehicle according to and inclusive of the required curriculum. Behind-the-wheel instruction is characterized by driving experience.

(2) "Classroom" means a space dedicated to and used exclusively by a driver training instructor for the instruction of students. With prior department approval, a branch office classroom may be located within alternative facilities, such as a public or private library, school, community college, college or university, or a business training facility.

(3) "Classroom instruction" means that portion of a traffic safety education course that is characterized by in-person classroom‑based student instruction or virtual classroom-based student instruction with a live instructor using the required curriculum conducted by or under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor or licensed instructors. Classroom instruction may include self-paced, online components as authorized and certified by the department of licensing.

(4) "Director" means the director of the department of licensing of the state of Washington.

(5) "Driver training education course" means a course of instruction in traffic safety education approved and licensed by the department of licensing that consists of classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction that follows the approved curriculum.

(6) "Driver training school" means a commercial driver training school engaged in the business of giving instruction, for a fee, in the operation of automobiles.

(7) "Enrollment" means the collecting of a fee or the signing of a contract for a driver training education course. "Enrollment" does not include the collecting of names and contact information for enrolling students once a driver training school is licensed to instruct.

(8) "Fraudulent practices" means any conduct or representation on the part of a driver training school owner or instructor including:

(a) Inducing anyone to believe, or to give the impression, that a license to operate a motor vehicle or any other license granted by the director may be obtained by any means other than those prescribed by law, or furnishing or obtaining the same by illegal or improper means, or requesting, accepting, or collecting money for such purposes;

(b) Operating a driver training school without a license, providing instruction without an instructor's license, verifying enrollment prior to being licensed, misleading or false statements on applications for a commercial driver training school license or instructor's license or on any required records or supporting documentation;

(c) Failing to fully document and maintain all required driver training school records of instruction, school operation, and instructor training;

(d) Issuing a driver training course certificate without requiring completion of the necessary behind-the-wheel and classroom instruction.

(9) "Instructor" means any person employed by or otherwise associated with a driver training school to instruct persons in the operation of an automobile.

(10) "Owner" means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other person or group that holds a substantial interest in a driver training school.

(11) "Person" means any individual, firm, corporation, partnership, or association.

(12) "Place of business" means a designated location at which the business of a driver training school is transacted or its records are kept.

(13) "Student" means any person enrolled in an approved driver training course.

(14) "Substantial interest holder" means a person who has actual or potential influence over the management or operation of any driver training school. Evidence of substantial interest includes, but is not limited to, one or more of the following:

(a) Directly or indirectly owning, operating, managing, or controlling a driver training school or any part of a driver training school;

(b) Directly or indirectly profiting from or assuming liability for debts of a driver training school;

(c) Is an officer or director of a driver training school;

(d) Owning ((~~ten~~)) 10 percent or more of any class of stock in a privately or closely held corporate driver training school, or five percent or more of any class of stock in a publicly traded corporate driver training school;

(e) Furnishing ((~~ten~~)) 10 percent or more of the capital, whether in cash, goods, or services, for the operation of a driver training school during any calendar year; or

(f) Directly or indirectly receiving a salary, commission, royalties, or other form of compensation from the activity in which a driver training school is or seeks to be engaged.

**Sec.**  RCW 46.82.330 and 2017 c 197 s 10 are each amended to read as follows:

(1) The application for an instructor's license shall document the applicant's fitness, knowledge, skills, and abilities to teach the classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction portions of a driver training education program in a commercial driver training school.

(2) An applicant shall be eligible to apply for an original instructor's certificate if the applicant possesses and meets the following qualifications and conditions:

(a) Has been licensed to drive for five or more years and possesses a current and valid Washington driver's license or is a resident of a jurisdiction immediately adjacent to Washington state and possesses a current and valid license issued by such jurisdiction, and does not have on his or her driving record any of the violations or penalties set forth in (a)(i), (ii), or (iii) of this subsection. The director shall have the right to examine the driving record of the applicant from the department of licensing and from other jurisdictions and from these records determine if the applicant has had:

(i) Not more than one moving traffic violation within the preceding twelve months or more than two moving traffic violations in the preceding ((~~twenty-four~~)) 24 months;

(ii) No drug or alcohol-related traffic violation or incident within the preceding three years. If there are two or more drug or alcohol-related traffic violations in the applicant's driving history, the applicant is no longer eligible to be a driving instructor; and

(iii) No driver's license suspension, cancellation, revocation, or denial within the preceding two years, or no more than two of these occurrences in the preceding five years;

(b) Is a high school graduate or the equivalent and at least ((~~twenty-one~~)) 21 years of age;

(c) Has completed an acceptable application on a form prescribed by the director;

(d) Has satisfactorily completed a course of instruction in the training of drivers acceptable to the director that is no less than ((~~sixty~~)) 60 hours in length and includes instruction in classroom and behind-the-wheel teaching methods and supervised practice behind-the-wheel teaching of driving techniques; and

(e) Has paid an examination fee as set by rule of the department and has successfully completed an instructor's examination.

(3) The department may develop rules to establish alternative pathways to licensure to substitute for subsection (2) of this section provided the alternative pathways enable the department to assess the applicant's fitness, knowledge, skill, and ability to teach the classroom and behind-the-wheel instruction portions of a driver training education program, and provided behind-the-wheel instructor certification include behind-the-wheel teaching methods and supervised practice behind-the-wheel teaching of driving techniques.

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

(1) By January 1, 2025, the department must publish on its website an interactive map of all driver training education course providers and providers of a traffic safety education program as defined in RCW 28A.220.020, including driver, motorcyclist, and commercial driver training and testing providers certified by the department. The interactive map, at a minimum, must provide training and testing provider names, locations, contact information, course and program pricing, and services offered by language.

(2) Each driving training education course and traffic safety education program provider must report course and program pricing to the department on an annual basis.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  A new section is added to chapter 39.19 RCW to read as follows:

The office shall develop a program to foster the development of women, minority-owned, and veteran-owned licensed driver training schools in the state, including through instruction on topics relevant to owning and operating a licensed driver training school, and shall report to the transportation committees of the legislature by October 1, 2024, with an update on program implementation and administration.

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